



Measures of Australia's Progress

Is life in Australia getting better?

The MAP Dashboard with themes grouped within their domains**The MAP Dashboard**

The MAP Dashboard with themes grouped by progress status...**by status**

A short video to help explain what MAP is**What is MAP? - video**

A summary brochure with highlights from MAP**Summary Brochure**

Society

✓	Health
~	Close relationships
~	Home
✓	Safety
✓	Learning and knowledge
~	Community connections and diversity
?	A fair go
?	Enriched lives

Economy

✓	Opportunities
✓	Jobs
✓	Prosperity
✗	A resilient economy
✓	Enhancing living standards
~	Fair outcomes
✓	International economic engagement

Environment

?	Healthy natural environment
~	Appreciating the environment
?	Protecting the environment
✗	Sustaining the environment
✓	Healthy built environments
?	Working together for a healthy environment

Governance

~	Trust
?	Effective governance
✓	Participation
?	Informed public debate
?	People's rights and responsibilities

What do these symbols mean?



The headline progress indicator for this theme has shown **progress**.



The headline progress indicator for this theme has shown **regress**.



The headline progress indicator for this theme has **not changed greatly**.



There is a **data gap** for this theme as there is currently no headline progress indicator.

Progress



Health



Safety



Learning and knowledge



Opportunities



Jobs



Prosperity



Enhancing living standards



International economic engagement



Healthy built environments



Participation

Regress



A resilient economy



Sustaining the environment

Data gap



A fair go



Enriched lives



Healthy natural environment



Protecting the environment



Working together for a healthy environment



Effective governance



Informed public debate



People's rights and responsibilities

Not changed greatly



Close relationships



Home



Community connections and diversity



Fair outcomes







Appreciating the environment



Trust

What do these symbols mean?

-  The headline progress indicator for this theme has shown **progress**.
-  The headline progress indicator for this theme has shown **regress**.
-  The headline progress indicator for this theme has **not changed greatly**.
-  There is a **data gap** for this theme as there is currently no headline progress indicator.

Not sure what Measures of Australia's Progress is all about?

Click on the play button below to stream the short introductory video 'What is MAP?'

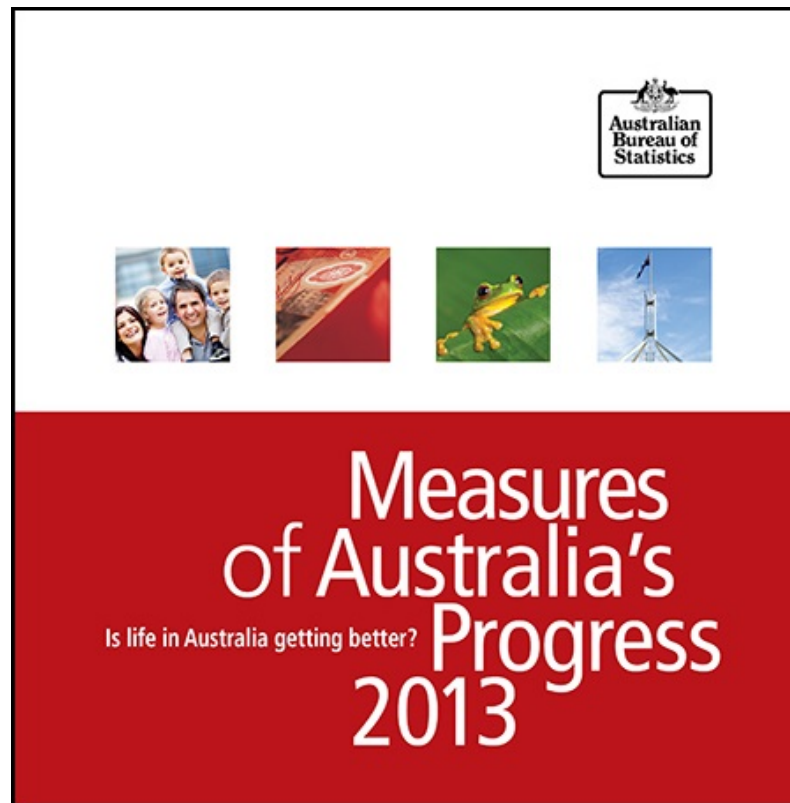


A captioned version of the video is also available to stream [here](#).

Looking for all the highlights in a simple, print friendly pdf? You've found it!

This brochure provides a summary of headline measures of progress which cover the major facets of Australian life.

Click the image below to download the MAP 2013 summary brochure.



[File type and size - pdf, 17.6 MB]

This page first published 9 May 2014, last updated 27 January 2016



About Measures of Australia's Progress

Behind the scenes of Measures of Australia's Progress - all you need to know

This publication is designed to help Australians address the question, 'Is life in Australia getting better?' Measures of Australia's Progress (MAP) provides a digestible selection of measures in answer to this question. Australians can use this evidence to form their own view of how our country is progressing. This 2013 release presents a refreshed set of indicators and new areas of progress, based on a public consultation process. A copy of the consultation report can be found [here](#).

This comprehensive version of Measures of Australia's Progress (cat no. 1370.0) provides a more detailed set of progress indicators than the annual summary publication of MAP Measures of Australia's Progress: Summary Indicators (cat. no. 1370.0.55.001).

You can view our summary video that presents a basic run down of what MAP 2013 is all about.

The following pages provide information about what MAP is, how it is developed, how to navigate this version and explains a bit about progress indicators:

- Preface - Provides an introduction to MAP 2013 by the Australian Statistician
- What is MAP? - Explains what MAP is, how it has evolved over time and how we define progress
- Presenting progress - Explains the approach that we have taken to present progress data
- MAP Dashboard and structure - Explains the Dashboard, how to navigate MAP and its structure, its graphs, and how to find further information
- Progress indicators - Explains what makes a good progress indicator, gives a summary of the 2013 indicators, the relationship between indicators and how we ensure they remain relevant over time
- References - For the about MAP chapter.

This page first published 14 November 2013, last updated 8 May 2014



Preface

Introduction to MAP 2013 by the Australian Statistician



Statistics tell us about who we are as a nation. They tell us where we have been, where we presently are, and are fundamental in guiding us into the future. Measuring progress is one of the most important and challenging tasks that a national statistical agency can undertake, and this refreshed edition of Measures of Australia's Progress (MAP) represents a key milestone for the ABS. MAP presents a range of indicators which enable Australians to decide whether life in Australia is getting better. Based on an extensive consultation process with Australians, the ABS has developed and articulated a new conceptual framework for the measurement of progress. This framework ensures the new measures are relevant and robust, and will remain so into the future.

More than a decade ago, the ABS made a major contribution to the measurement of progress with the inaugural release of MAP (ABS 2002). At that time, MAP was referred to as a revolutionary product that provided great insights into how life in Australia was improving, and at what rate. In 2011-12, the ABS undertook a national consultation to review MAP and ensure it remained relevant with indicators that aligned with the aspirations and hopes of Australians for their and the nation's future. The ABS is now releasing a refreshed set of indicators that measure those areas that Australians told us were most important to them for national progress. Building our new measures on a strong foundation of community views ensures the relevance and legitimacy of MAP as an important statement about whether life in Australia is getting better.

The role of the ABS and our pursuit of the meaningful measurement of progress has pre-empted and influenced progress measurement initiatives occurring around the world. MAP sits at the vanguard of this international activity. Our chief contributions to the international conversation about progress have been to ensure our official statistics measure what Australians care about for national progress and that these indicators are built upon a strong conceptual foundation ensuring that we create and consider broader measures of progress.

Most importantly, this edition of MAP provides a mirror to the face of the nation, giving citizens insight into how Australia is fairing, and providing information about whether life in Australia is getting better.

The ABS would like to thank everyone who has assisted in the production of this edition of MAP. The ABS was guided in this process by an Expert Reference Group, to whom I would like to express my gratitude for their ongoing contribution. I would also like to thank Australians from across the country who have provided their valuable input to the MAP consultation process.

As MAP is an evolving product, we welcome comments and suggestions on the contents of this release. Please send any comments to the Director of Social and Progress Reporting at the following address:

Director
Social and Progress Reporting Section

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Locked Bag 10
Belconnen ACT 2616
Email: measuringprogress@abs.gov.au

Brian Pink
Australian Statistician
November 2013

This page first published 14 November 2013, last updated 8 May 2014



What is MAP?

Behind the scenes of Measures of Australia's Progress - all you need to know

What is MAP?**What is MAP?**

Why MAP?**Why MAP?**

What is progress?**What is progress?**

Evolution of MAP**Evolution of MAP**

How does MAP differ?**Difference**

Limitations**Limitations**

Our role**Our role**

This product is designed to help Australians address the question, 'Is life in Australia getting better?'. Measures of Australia's Progress (MAP) provides a digestible selection of measures in answer to this question that Australians can use to form their own view of how our country is progressing. The MAP homepage provides an 'at a glance' view of progress for Australia and is designed to be a summary of broad, national level progress measures. The tabs across the top of this page explain what MAP is, how we define progress and how MAP has evolved over time.

The MAP indicators presented are designed to show changes towards key aspirations of Australians, so that an assessment of progress can be made. The indicators are grouped under four broad headings: society, economy, environment and governance, based on the areas of life that Australians have told us are important for progress.

Within these broad headings (domains) many areas of life (themes) are addressed, such as 'health' within the social domain, 'prosperity' within the economic domain, 'healthy natural environment' within the environmental domain and 'trust' within the governance domain. Where available, each theme has a headline progress indicator that represents the theme as a whole and shows whether progress has been made for this area.

Each theme is broken down further so that a more detailed story about the extent of progress can be told. Where possible, these important aspects (elements) of each theme have a single progress indicator. For example, the health theme contains progress indicators for areas such as physical and mental health.

Measures of Australia's Progress (MAP) highlights where there are data gaps for aspects of progress that may be significant to Australians. In this way, MAP points to where development may be needed in order to find suitable measures for these areas of progress. Gaps in the availability of measures occur for a number of reasons; for example, some areas of progress are inherently subjective and hence difficult to measure reliably. In other cases, the concept we want to measure is not yet sufficiently developed, or the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement. The quality of data or availability of data from only one point in time may also mean that there is no appropriate current measure of progress. And then there are areas of interest which have yet to be measured.

As well as thematic information, MAP includes population and regional information to support and broaden the view of Australia's progress. While MAP generally provides broad national level data, the Rural and Regional chapter provides a regional view of progress and highlights some of the challenges faced when measuring progress for smaller geographic areas. MAP will continue to evolve with further contextual information for themes and their elements added over time.

For more information about the structure of MAP see the tabs on this page. For more information about how to access the information and get around MAP, go to the Navigating MAP tab on the MAP Dashboard and structure page.

For a full list of indicators see the list on the Data and downloads page.

Public interest in the relationships between economic, social, environmental and governance aspects of life continues to grow in communities, in governments, and internationally. This interest in presenting a more complete picture of progress (combining GDP with other economic, social and environmental measures), is the prime reason the ABS originally developed Measures of Australia's Progress (MAP) and has continued to publish data in this format.

Interest in measuring progress has accelerated in recent years, and the number of commentators calling for social, environmental and governance measures to be considered in addition to traditional economic measures has grown. For example, since 2004, the OECD has hosted major international dialogues and debates on measuring societal progress. In 2010, it established WikiProgress, an online forum for sharing progress information and developments and in 2011, it released the 'Better Life Index', an interactive tool for comparing wellbeing across nations. Furthermore, a report by the Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress (Stiglitz, Sen and Fitoussi, 2009) and the European Commission's GDP and Beyond report (Commission of the European Communities, 2009) to name just two, have recommended a rethink of measurement systems of progress. They have also encouraged a national and global dialogue on what societies care about, and whether this is adequately reflected in our national and international indicators.

Given the recent developments in measuring progress, ABS considered it timely to review whether MAP is still measuring those aspects of life that matter most to Australians. In 2011-12, the ABS undertook a broad-ranging consultation that asked Australians, "What is important to you for national progress?" You can find more information about the consultation process on the Evolution of MAP tab located on this page.

The concept of progress is central to Measures of Australia's Progress (MAP). In its broadest sense, we define progress as life improving or getting better. MAP examines progress in many aspects of people's lives, for example, their health, the quality of their environment, their incomes, work and leisure, personal safety and so on.

Progress is multidimensional. Whether or not the nation is making progress depends on all of these factors: on the state of our environment, the health of our economy and a variety of individual and societal wellbeing issues. Consequently, measures of progress for each factor are necessary. We seek to present measures for these aspects of life that show unambiguous movement, so that a clear assessment of progress can be made.

In MAP, we do not make a single statement about whether Australia is progressing overall. Instead, we present the information in such a way that readers can consider the relative importance of progress in each dimension and bring their own personal evaluations to these questions.

Over time there has been an evolution of what is considered to be important for progress and how it is best measured. Since Measures of Australia's Progress (MAP) was first produced in 2002, there has been increasing global interest in measuring the social, economic and environmental dimensions of progress. More recently, there has been a growing interest in measuring progress in the area of governance.

Given these recent developments in measuring progress, ABS considered it timely to review whether MAP is still measuring those aspects of life that matter most to Australians. In 2011-12, the ABS undertook a broad-ranging consultation that asked Australians, "What is important to you for national progress?" This public consultation allowed us to hear, listen and reflect on the aspirations that Australians hold for national progress.

The feedback received from Australians was provided in the form of aspirations for national progress, such as 'good health for all'. These aspirations covered a broad range of issues that people considered important. Some of these issues were already included in MAP, such as health and education, while others were new or reframed aspirations such as 'a healthy built environment', 'a fair go for all Australians' and the 'opportunity to have a say in decision-making'. Participants also identified more detailed aspects of these aspirations that they felt were important for progress; for example, within the broad area of health, 'mental health and wellbeing' was highlighted.

In November 2012, the ABS released Measures of Australia's Progress - aspirations for our nation: a

conversation with Australians about progress, which provides a full account of the aspirations that came from the consultation. Using these results, together with expert statistical advice, we have developed a refreshed set of indicators for MAP 2013.

MAP is an evolving product and a number of changes have been incorporated into this edition. The consultation has been the driver for the following changes to MAP:

- An aspiration statement for each theme. These aspirations represent the findings from the consultation and reflect what Australians told us they care about most for national progress. For example, 'Australians aspire to good health for all' is the aspiration for the 'Health' theme
- A refreshed set of indicators that are consistent with the consultation results
- A new Governance domain strongly endorsed throughout the consultation and added to the MAP framework as a 4th domain
- A new web interface including a refreshed summary dashboard, with an alternate view that displays the indicators by progress status. The new interface has easy to navigate tabs, a video and a multi-graph selector that allows users to select graphs by different disaggregations from a drop down menu
- A regional chapter that highlights progress at the regional level and the challenges of assessing regional progress
- Elements of the themes that give voice to the progress of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

In developing our approach to the consultation process and this most recent edition of MAP, we have been guided by an Expert Reference Group comprising a range of government, industry and academic members who are highly regarded in the area of statistical measurement.

The ABS produces a rich array of information relevant to assessing progress through our many data releases. However, the very size of that information base means information is not always readily accessible.

Our products provide an insight into one or a few aspects of life - say, health, education, income or the environment. A more complete picture of progress considers these aspects of life together.

Measures of Australia's Progress (MAP) is unique in that it brings a digestible selection of measures together from across all of these areas. We believe MAP will assist Australians and the international community to make their own assessment of whether life in Australia is getting better. Readers are encouraged to gather more information from the full range of our products and non-ABS products to supplement this assessment.

MAP 2013 is built around the aspirations that Australians told us were important to them for progress. In order to measure Australia's progress it is important to understand the broad aspirations Australians hold for their country. Measuring progress is about determining whether we are moving in a positive direction towards these goals or aspirations. This translation of concepts into measures can be a complex task. We have sought to give voice to the aspirations Australians thought were important for progress by selecting measures that shed light on at least part of each idea expressed.

MAP is a summary product that provides information at the national level, and it is therefore limited in how much information it can provide for other geographic areas such as states and territories. MAP provides a breakdown of the indicators, however this is not possible for all areas. Where possible, links have been provided to point people in the right direction if they wish to investigate further.

Ultimately, MAP is intended to complement the array of indicators available in Australia, and we encourage readers to access other publications that can provide more detailed information on the aspects of society, the economy, the environment and governance that particularly interest them. Be sure to check the further info pages for useful links and references.

MAP continues to evolve and we will seek to include further contextual and progress information as it becomes available.

Measuring progress - providing information about whether life is getting better - is perhaps the most important task a national statistical agency like the ABS undertakes. Measuring progress has been the responsibility of the ABS since colonial times. A national statistical agency like the ABS plays an

important role in providing the indicators that allow assessments of progress to be made, by those who formulate and evaluate policy, by researchers and by the Australian community. Setting out a suite of social, economic, environmental and governance indicators that aim to measure a country's progress continues to be one of the most challenging tasks that a national statistical agency undertakes. Measures of Australia's Progress is one of many sources of data we publish to inform Australians about their society.

This page first published 9 May 2014



Presenting progress

Behind the scenes of Measures of Australia's Progress - all you need to know

Presenting progress

Values and preferences

Measuring progress over time

The tabs across the top of this page contain information about how progress is presented in Measures of Australia's Progress (MAP).

There are many ways in which data about progress can be presented. These might be summarised into two main approaches:

- A suite of indicators, or 'dashboard' approach, which presents selected informative progress indicators side by side
- An accounting approach, which provides a set of consistent accounts which may be used to support the production of a single progress indicator.

MAP takes the dashboard approach. It presents data on key aspects of life in Australia and discusses the links between these areas. In this way, readers can review progress across the social, economic, environmental and governance domains side by side and understand the issues unique and similar to each.

The dashboard approach encourages readers to consider the indicators and make their own assessment of whether Australia is, on balance, progressing and at what rate. By comparison, although a useful analytical tool, the accounting approach takes those decisions out of the hands of the general public, by applying weights to each factor in each domain before the data is presented.

In an accounting approach, all relevant social, environmental, economic and governance factors would be considered in terms of consistent measurement units - usually monetary. Social, economic, environment and governance 'accounts' would then be brought together in one unified system of accounts. In this approach, the data can be presented in a set of accounts that are consistent with one another, or, because of this consistency, the data can be combined into one or more single numbers. This approach is suited to some areas of measurement more than others for a number of reasons. For example, economic goods and services are valued in monetary terms by observing the price paid for these in the market and are therefore suited to the accounting approach of measuring progress. By contrast, it is not always as easy to use market prices to reflect the value of particular goods or services in a wider societal or environmental context (for example, biodiversity). There are also social and environmental aspects of life - particularly the intangible and non-material - which are fundamentally difficult to value in monetary or accounting terms (for example, participation in sport). To allocate a monetary value to intrinsically valuable but 'priceless' factors would involve a complex analysis of social values, which is difficult to undertake objectively for statistical purposes.

The creation of a single index which combines a range of social, environmental and economic measures is another approach, but one with challenges and limitations. Components will usually be measured in different units (e.g. years of life expectancy, dollars of income, numbers of suicide deaths, tonnes of greenhouse gases). Although it may be possible to express these different factors in some common way to make them comparable with one another (usually as a rate), this also involves making complex social value judgements about the relative importance of each. There is a danger that a composite indicator will give potentially misleading signals depending on the context in which it is used. As a result, the ABS has not developed or adopted such a system for measuring progress.

We have decided that the dashboard approach is better suited to the area of assessing societal progress. In doing so, we have revealed the components of our view of progress and avoided the contestability and reductive approach of a comprehensive accounting system or index approach, which seek to combine incompatible units into one measure, and is complicated to compile and interpret. Presenting a single indicator, in dollar terms, to represent the complexity of life in Australia may be overly

reductive and potentially problematic.

Any overall assessment about whether life is getting better is unavoidably based on values and preferences. However, Measures of Australia's Progress (MAP) is presented in such a way that the reader is encouraged to draw on their own values when assessing progress. This is because there are many perspectives about what is important for progress. For example, faced with measures revealing that life expectancy has lengthened during the past decade but more land has been degraded by salinity, one reader may judge that there has been progress and another that there has been regress. To summarise the different values that Australians give different aspects of life into a single measurement of progress, would be to limit the view of what is important to Australians for the progress of their nation.

For these reasons, MAP presents a range of progress indicators. These are selected because they provide a summary of social, economic, environmental and governance progress, and are carefully chosen in consultation with experts and members of the community from the very extensive array of measures available in Australia. They encapsulate a range of complex issues in a given area of interest. In particular, the headline progress indicators are chosen because they inform on pivotal aspects of progress over time.

We recently undertook a national consultation to determine Australian's views on what is important for progress. By consulting with the Australian public, we are able to ensure that the community's values, rather than those of the ABS, are reflected. Our role is to use our expertise as statisticians to determine exactly how to measure the things Australians told us were important for progress.

For a full account of the MAP consultation process view the consultation report [here](#).

Measures of Australia's Progress (MAP) provides a selection of measures to answer the question 'Is life in Australia getting better?' and show whether important aspects of Australian society have progressed. To assess whether progress towards the aspiration has been made, we need to be able to show that there has been change over time. To do this, we have used measures (i.e. progress indicators) where the data is the most recently available and can show change between at least two points in time.*

We have carefully identified measures that best fit the aspirations that Australians have for progress. This means that we have indicators that have varying time series. Some have time series spanning a decade or more, where other, newer indicators have only two time periods. Our aim is to build these time series as measures continue to be collected.

* All assessments of change have been tested (where applicable) for statistical significance.



MAP Dashboard and structure

Behind the scenes of Measures of Australia's Progress - all you need to know

MAP Dashboard and structure

Navigating MAP

Structure of MAP

Graphs

Getting more info

The tabs across the top of this page provide information about the MAP dashboard, how to navigate MAP and its structure, its graphs, and how to find further information.

The MAP Dashboard

To assist readers in gaining a quick 'at a glance' view of recent progress in Australia, Measures of Australia's Progress (MAP) presents a 'traffic light' dashboard of headline progress indicators on the MAP home page. The dashboard is arranged into four broad areas of life - society, economy, environment and governance. Each of these areas is made up of themes, which collectively summarise the aspirations that Australians told us were important for progress in these four areas; for example, health (society), opportunities (economy), a healthy environment (environment), and trust (governance).

Progress for each theme is shown by a green tick (for progress), a red cross (for regress), or an orange line (for little or no change). Progress is calculated by comparing two points in time; the most recent point where data is available, and an earlier period (which is dependent upon how much data is available). The blue question marks show where there is no current measure and highlights where we may be able to show indicators in the future.

More information about the headline indicators or measures 'behind' the dashboard symbols is found by simply clicking on the themes. For example, clicking on health will take you to the life expectancy headline indicator, which we use to measure the overall progress of Australia's health. The dashboard format allows you to quickly view all domains of progress at once so you can more readily assess, on balance, whether life in Australia is getting better.


The MAP dashboard is an interactive gateway to a rich picture of progress within Australia. Click on the tabs on each theme page and you will find progress indicators for more areas that Australians told us are important for progress. For example, the tabs on the health page will provide indicators for such areas as physical health, mental health and healthy lifestyles.


While MAP provides a picture of broad national progress, there is also some information available at state level, and by age and gender. Links are provided to further information, including data sources, and detailed tables are available under the downloads heading so you can explore further.

An alternative dashboard view is also provided on the '...by status' tab, to allow the MAP themes to be grouped by their progress status - for example, all the ticks grouped together.

MAP dashboard - what do the symbols mean?

The full explanation of the symbols is as follows:

 The headline progress indicator for this theme has shown **progress**. When comparing current data to earliest data included, the change is in a direction which clearly signals progress and, where applicable, that change is statistically significant.

 The headline progress indicator for this theme has shown **regress**. When comparing current data to earliest data included, the change is in a direction which clearly signals regress and, where applicable, that change is statistically significant.



The headline progress indicator for this theme has **not changed greatly**.

When comparing current data to earliest data included, there is no meaningful movement or the movements observed in any direction are not statistically significant.



There is a **data gap** for this theme as there is currently no headline progress indicator.

The traffic light format is a visual tool to help you quickly assess whether life in Australia is getting better. To support this, we ensure that the movement shown is an actual movement and is not the result of 'statistical noise'. As is standard procedure, where appropriate, the ABS has undertaken significance testing to determine whether the movements are statistically significant. Statistical significance means a movement or comparison is not likely to have happened just by chance.

The new Measures of Australia's Progress (MAP) format is intended to enhance accessibility to the data for all Australians, by making it easy to navigate web product. It is designed to show the most high-level and summary data on the home page to provide a quick overview. More detailed data is presented as you follow the links on the MAP dashboard and 'drill down' into the product. Tabs appear across the top of each page, to allow easy access to all relevant data about that page to minimise scrolling and changing pages.

The panel on the left-hand side of the screen shows the structure of the MAP product and can also be used to navigate between topics. The home page can be accessed by clicking MAP Homepage on the left hand navigation bar.

Links throughout the product will take you to relevant information either within MAP, the ABS website, or external information sources.

In summary, the product has information at the following levels of detail:

LEVEL	DESCRIPTION
MAP Homepage	<p>The MAP Dashboard (by theme and by progress status).</p> <p>'At a glance' progress assessment of areas that Australians told us were important for progress. Headline themes are grouped under the four broad areas of society, the economy, the environment and governance. The data relates to two points in time only; the beginning and end of a 10 year period, or of the time series available.</p> <p>What is MAP? animation.</p>
Domain pages	<p>MAP Brochure of headline indicators.</p> <p>Provides an overview of each of the four areas in MAP - society, the economy, the environment and governance.</p>
Theme pages and headline progress indicators	<p>Provides headline progress indicators, explanatory text, graphs and links to further information for the 26 MAP themes. A graph summary tab contains all the graphs included within each theme.</p>
Tabs on theme pages	<p>Provides progress indicators, explanatory text, graphs and links to further information for important elements of the theme. A graph summary tab contains all the graphs included within each theme.</p>
About MAP pages	<p>Explains how MAP was developed and how to interpret the product.</p>
Population and Regional progress pages	<p>A chapter discussing the demographic context for the measurement of progress in MAP.</p> <p>A chapter discussing progress below the national level and the challenges in providing rural and regional-level information.</p>
Data and Downloads	<p>All graphed data is provided in an excel spreadsheet for each theme.</p>

Related information

Previous versions of MAP as well as the MAP consultation report , MAP Information paper, and other relevant information sources are linked for reference.

Feedback

Details about how to provide feedback for future versions of MAP.

Where possible we have provided graphs to visually represent the information reflected in the commentary. As a new feature of MAP in 2013, you can use the 'multi graph selector' to explore different stories about the indicators. You can access the 'multi graph selector' by clicking on the drop down menu, as illustrated in the graphic below .

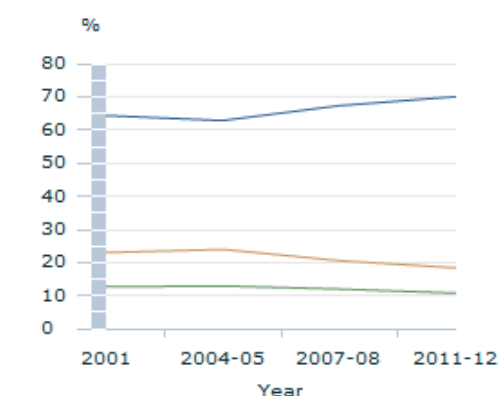
If you want to find out a figure from the graphs on the theme and element tabs, you can simply hover the mouse over the graph at the point of interest. As illustrated in the graphic below, the figure will then appear in a small box.

For devices that are non-flash compatible (e.g. Apple and Android supported devices) only the top level graph will appear as a static image. However, you can still view all graphs on the graph summary tab of the further info page. Note: Graphs are designed to be viewed at 100% zoom within a browser.

Example graphs

Multi graph selector

Level of psychological distress(a)(b)



■ Low distress
■ Moderate distress
■ High/Very high distress(c)

Progress indicator | ▼

Progress indicator

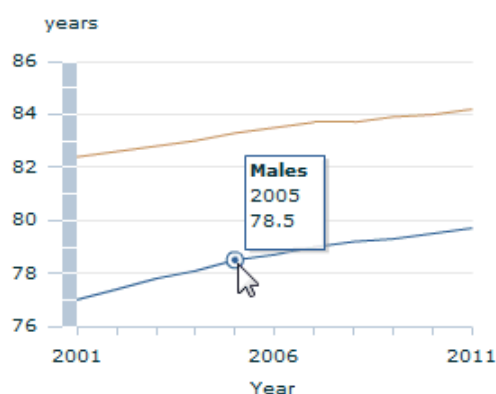
...for males

...for females

Psychological distress are Kessler Psychological Distress Scale. The denominator includes a small number of persons for whom levels of psychological distress were unable to be determined or who were not asked. (b) Persons aged 18 years and over. (c) A

Hover over points of interest

Life expectancy at birth(a)



■ Males ■ Females

Footnote (a) Life expectancy has been calculated using data for the three years ending in the reference year.

Source ABS Deaths, Australia, 2011 (cat. no. 3302.0)

We also provide opportunities for users to find out further information about the indicators.

For each theme there is a further info page. The further info pages contain links to useful sections of the MAP publication, such as the glossary, references and graphs. Also provided are helpful links to related ABS and non-ABS pages.

All of the data presented in the commentary and graphs is available in our data cubes. You can access these excel spreadsheet files by clicking on the Data and downloads page on the left hand navigation bar. We also provide links to the source of the data, in the commentary and the spreadsheets, so you can investigate further if you wish.

Our Regional progress page provides specific information about progress in regional areas of Australia and where to go for further regional information.

Our Population page provides specific information about the composition and distribution of the Australian population, as well as information about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and overseas born populations.

This page first published 14 November 2013, last updated 8 May 2014



Progress indicators

Behind the scenes of Measures of Australia's Progress - all you need to know

Progress indicators

Criteria

Quality assessment key

Relationships

Relevance over time

Measures of Australia's Progress (MAP) comprises measures which are able to clearly show progress over time (progress indicators) across the four domains of Australia's society, economy, environment and governance.

Although MAP has had previous versions of indicators, following the extensive 2011-12 consultation process, we have started from the ground up to identify a refreshed range of indicators to best express the aspirations Australians have for progress. A full list of current MAP indicators is available on the Data and downloads page.

The tabs across the top of this page provide some information about the progress indicators used in MAP, how we decide which ones to use, the relationships between indicators and how we ensure they remain relevant over time.

Progress indicators are summary statistics that reflect an aspect of life. Importantly, they are specially chosen because they are able to demonstrate clear positive or negative movement over time.

The progress indicators in Measures of Australia's Progress (MAP) have been selected to reflect the aspirations that Australians told the ABS were important for the nation's progress, within the four main areas of society, economy, environment and governance. When refreshing our progress indicators for MAP 2013, we have taken a flexible approach in selecting indicators in order to maximise the information available. This approach has been guided by four principles:

1. The indicator used should be the best available indicator which is relevant to the theme or element.
2. Indicators do not need to be 'all-encompassing' of the theme or element to be included. Indicators that contain a partial or indirect insight, may be acceptable in those instances where it could be reasonable to expect that the indicator would be representative of the overarching theme or element.
3. Indicators in MAP 2013 do not need to have an extensive time series for inclusion – this can grow over time. This is to ensure the ABS does not exclude suitable indicators because of their short time series. Though MAP aims to ensure all progress measures have a suitable time series to sensibly provide a picture of progress, we have included measures where we anticipate future data points will become available.
4. Indicators should be of high or acceptable quality, with specific regard to reliability, currency, and methodology.







Difference between headline progress indicators and progress indicators

In MAP there are two types of indicators; headline progress indicators and progress indicators.

Headline progress indicators represent the progress for their respective theme. For example, life expectancy is the headline progress indicator for the 'health' theme. Life expectancy at birth is one of the most widely used and internationally recognised indicators of population health.

Progress indicators represent the progress of the elements within the themes. For example, disability free life expectancy is the progress indicator for the 'physical health' element within the 'health' theme.

We have also used a quality assessment key in order to be clear about the conceptual fit of each indicator to its theme or element, and the quality of the data source.

Target Diagram	Type of Indicator	Description - assessment of conceptual fit
	Direct measure	An indicator that measures all of the concept reflected by the theme or element, i.e. a good conceptual 'fit' (e.g. 'Employment as a proportion of people who are in work or want to work' is a direct measure of employment opportunities)
	Partial measure	An indicator that measures part of the concept reflected by the theme or element, where that part is considered significant enough to stand as an indicator for the theme or element as a whole, i.e. a partial conceptual 'fit' (e.g. 'Number of domestic trips involving nature activities' is a partial measure of access to and availability of nature areas)
	Indirect measure	An indicator that measures the concept reflected by the theme or element, whilst being somewhat conceptually separate from the central idea of the theme or element, i.e. a proxy for the idea, rather than good a conceptual 'fit'. (e.g. 'Life expectancy' is an indirect measure of health)
Scale diagram	Quality of data source	Description - assessment of quality
	High quality	The data source rates highly in terms of reliability, currency and methodology
	Acceptable quality	The data source is acceptable in terms of reliability, currency and methodology
	Limited quality	The data source is of limited quality in terms of reliability, currency and methodology (and therefore not included in MAP 2013)

Many aspects of progress are inter-linked in some way. Change in one dimension of progress is often accompanied by change elsewhere. Therefore it is important to consider the set of indicators cohesively and in relation to each other. The MAP Dashboard explicitly places assessments of progress for the four broad areas - society, economy, environment and governance - next to each other so that you can see and consider the different dimensions of progress together.

Broadly, there are two types of relationships between different areas of progress; tensions (or trade-offs) and reinforcements.

Tensions occur when one area of progress improves at the expense of another. In some cases, these tensions or trade-offs arise after a change in policy or preference. For example, spending on education might be cut to give more money to health. But they also occur as flow-on effects. For example, as the strength of the Australian dollar increases, our goods and services become more expensive to buy for our trading partners.

Reinforcements occur when one aspect of progress improves and strengthens another. For example, as economic production rises, then employment is likely to rise.

In reality, the overall effect of a change in any one dimension of progress is much more complex. For example, suppose factory output increases; this generates more income, and so there is more money to pay for, say, health care. But increased factory output might also increase air pollution, which is harmful to people's health or might be detrimental to other economic activity such as agriculture.

For more information about the relationship between areas of progress see the 2008 MAP feature article [Relationships Between Domains of Progress](#).

The MAP headline progress indicators form a core set of statistics for reporting on Australia's progress. However, over time, they may change as social priorities change, and as new indicators are developed. New indicators may be improved measures for existing areas we already measure or may be able to shed light on new areas, such as happiness, political freedom, or human capital.

National and international thinking about what is important when measuring the progress of societies, has developed rapidly over the last decade and particularly over the last few years. For example, in 2009, the Australia 2020 Summit discussed the need for improved indicators of progress, and the G20 Summit encouraged work on measurement methods that better take into account the social and environmental dimensions of economic development. Recently in Australia, the National Sustainability Council's *Sustainable Australia Report 2013, Conversations with the future* outlined an approach, looking across the economy, society and the environment, for measuring and monitoring sustainability, to assist government to build a sustainable Australia. In this refreshed view of MAP, we look at four broad areas of life - society, the economy, the environment and the newly determined governance area - to assess whether Australia is making progress in the areas that Australians told us were most important to them.

One way that we ensure that MAP remains relevant over time is to check that we are still measuring what Australians consider important for progress. The results from the 2011-12 public consultation have been used to update MAP's framework and ensure MAP's ongoing relevance into the future. A comprehensive process has been undertaken to determine the best available progress indicators to reflect Australian's aspirations for progress, guided by expert advice. This refreshed set of indicators is presented in MAP 2013.

Conceptual developments in the area of measuring Australia's progress will be ongoing and we will continue to work to ensure MAP remains a current, informative and high quality resource for all Australians to determine whether or not life is getting better.



References for About MAP

Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2008, Feature Article - Relationships Between Domains of Progress (cat. no. 1383.0.55.001)

Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2012, Measures of Australia's Progress - Aspirations for our Nation: A Conversation with Australians about Progress (cat. no. 1370.0.00.002)

Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2013, Information Paper: Measures of Australia's Progress Proposed Statistical Indicators, 2013 (cat. no. 1370.0.00.003)

Commission of the European Communities, 2009, GDP and Beyond: Measuring progress in a changing world, Brussels

Contanza, R, Hart, M, Posner, Sand Talberth J 2009, Beyond GDP: The need for new measures of progress, The Pardee Papers, 4, Boston University.

National Sustainability Council, 2013, Sustainable Australia Report 2013, Conversations with the future, Canberra: DSEWPac, 2013.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Better Life Index, viewed 5 November 2013 <www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org>

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, WikiProgress, viewed 5 November 2013 <www.wikiprogress.org>

Stiglitz, J, Sen, A and Fitoussi, J-P 2009, Report by the Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress, viewed 5 November 2013 <www.stiglitz-sen-fitoussi.fr>



Society

Australians aspire to a society that values and cares for the wellbeing of all its members

Measures of Australia's Progress (MAP) presents a view of Australian life divided into four main areas: society, economy, environment and governance. During our latest consultation, we asked Australians about what is important to them for national progress for each of these areas. For society, they identified the aspects they felt were most important and what they thought Australia should aspire to (or aim for) to achieve progress. We have sought to provide indicators that will capture the spirit of, and measure, these aspirations for societal progress. The statement at the top of this page is the overall aspiration Australians had for society.

In the context of MAP, society primarily concerns human relationships. It also encompasses the desire for good health, better living conditions and improved quality of life for all Australians. Individuals seek to achieve these for themselves, for their family, and for their communities.

A major driving force in human activity is the desire for optimal health, better living conditions and improved quality of life. A fundamental objective of government is to create better conditions of living for the population, and many community groups and private organisations also work towards this objective. In MAP, social progress is measured by improvements in the wellbeing of the population; a reduction in threats to, and increases in, social cohesion; and providing increased access and opportunities.

What did Australians say?

Australians are interested in more than health and living conditions. Many people expressed aspirations in the areas of personal safety - for people to be safe and to feel safe. They felt that having the time, opportunity and support to maintain close relationships is important, as is the opportunity to participate in learning, to embrace diversity and build strong connections with the communities that we live in. All these aspects were considered important for social progress.

The Australian ethos of 'a fair go' emerged throughout the consultation, encompassing access and opportunity for essential parts of life, including employment, education and assistance for people who are vulnerable. People also thought that it was important to acknowledge the areas of life that are hard to measure but are important for the wellbeing of a society and its progress. Intangible experiences, such as the feelings that belonging and giving can provide, as well as the benefits of participation in sport and cultural events, were seen to enrich lives and contribute to social cohesion.

Main themes of society

Our recent consultation agreed on eight main themes Australians thought were important for social progress and where possible, MAP provides progress indicators for these themes and their elements. As there are many newly emerging areas of interest from the consultation process, we don't have measures for all of these. However, MAP is an evolving product and we will seek to fill data gaps as suitable measures become available.

To view the societal measures included in MAP, click on the themes below to see how Australia is progressing in that area:

- Health - Australians aspire to good health for all
- Close relationships - Australians aspire to a society that nurtures families and other close relationships that support people
- Home - Australians aspire to have secure places to live that provide a sense of belonging and home, and are adequate to their needs
- Safety - Australians aspire to a society where people are safe and feel safe
- Learning and knowledge - Australians aspire to a society that values and enables learning
- Community connections and diversity - Australians aspire to support each other and embrace diversity

- A fair go - Australians aspire to a fair society that enables everyone to meet their needs
- Enriched lives - Australians aspire to value all aspects of life that are important to people and enrich their lives

This page first published 14 November 2013, last updated 8 May 2014



Health

Australians aspire to good health for all

Overall progress? **Overall progress?**

Physical health **Physical**

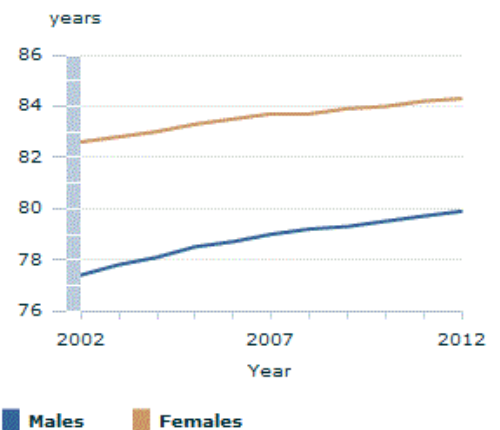
Mental health and wellbeing **Mental**

Quality health services **Services**

Healthy lifestyles **Lifestyles**

Healthy environments **Environments**

Life expectancy at birth(a)



Footnote (a) Life expectancy has been calculated using data for the three years ending in the reference year.

Source ABS Deaths, Australia, 2012 (cat. no. 3302.0)

Footnote(s): (a) Life expectancy has been calculated using data for the three years ending in the reference year.

Source(s): ABS Deaths, Australia, 2012 (cat. no. 3302.0)



Health in Australia has progressed over the last decade

Indicator: Life expectancy at birth

Why is this theme important?

Australians told us that being healthy was one of the most significant factors affecting an individual's wellbeing. While health conditions and disabilities will always exist, people felt that it was still possible for people to optimise their health and have a feeling of wellness. Health was seen as multidimensional, relating not just to someone's physical condition but also to their mental, emotional and social wellbeing. Lifestyle factors and the living, working, urban and natural environments also play an important role in health for Australians. The health of individuals was seen to affect relationships, particularly those relationships associated with caring for people who are ill, elderly or have disabilities. Wider social and community wellbeing can also be influenced by health. For example, the provision of quality health care services and programs can impact community health and cohesion. Many people in the consultation saw society as having a collective responsibility to plan for the costs of providing adequate health care.

Good health improves the wellbeing of individuals and the broader community through direct and indirect means. For an individual, good health means a life free of the burdens of illness, which can include pain, social isolation, financial costs, and restrictions to lifestyle choices. For the nation, a healthy population is more able to contribute to society in various ways, such as through participation in employment, education and social or community activities. A good level of health also brings about reduced direct costs to the community, such as through lower health care costs and reduced death rates.

Why has there been progress?

Health in Australia has progressed over the last decade because continuous improvements in life expectancy at birth (our headline progress indicator for health) suggest there has been progress.

In the ten years to 2012, life expectancy at birth has improved by 2.5 years for males and 1.7 years for females. Based on current mortality rates, a male born in 2010-2012 can expect to live 79.9 years, while a female can expect to live 84.3 years. Over the decade, male life expectancy increased more than female life expectancy (2.5 compared with 1.7 years). This saw the gap between the sexes' life expectancy decrease to 4.4 years, a change of almost one year over the decade.

Why this headline progress indicator?

Living a long and healthy life is an important part of the aspiration for health.

Life expectancy is considered a good measure of progress for health because it is one of the most widely used and internationally recognised indicators of population health. It focuses on the length of life rather than its quality, but provides a useful summary of the general health of the population.

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is an indirect measure of the concept of health as described above (based on Aspirations for our Nation).

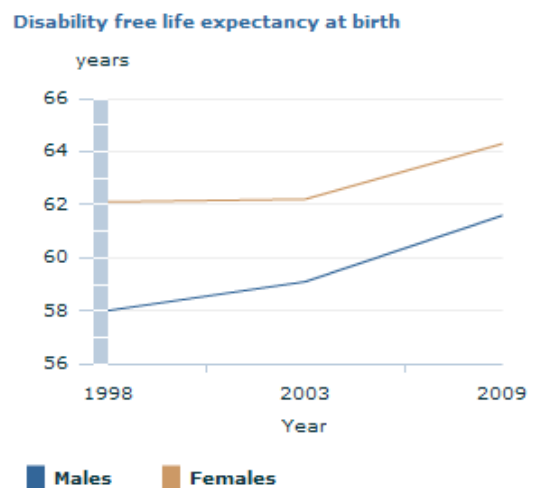


The data source is of high quality.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to health than life expectancy. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of health have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.



Source Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Changes in life expectancy and disability in Australia 1998-2009

Source(s): Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Changes in life expectancy and disability in Australia 1998-2009
Physical health in Australia has progressed since 1998

Indicator: Disability free life expectancy at birth

Why is this element important?

Physical health has been identified as an important contributor to maintaining good overall health. Good health means a life free of the burdens of illness, which can include pain, social isolation, financial costs, and restrictions to lifestyle choices.

Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about health.

How have we decided there has been progress?

We have decided that physical health in Australia has progressed since 1998 because disability free life expectancy at birth (our progress indicator for physical health) has increased.

Since 1998, disability free life expectancy at birth for males and females has steadily increased from 58 years and 61.6 years respectively, to 62.1 years and 64.3 years in 2009.

Why this progress indicator?

The expectation of living a long and disability free life is an important part of the aspiration for health.

Disability free life expectancy is considered a good measure of progress for physical health because it indicates the length of time people can expect to live without restriction to their day-to-day physical function or activity as a result of disability. As the headline indicator for health 'life expectancy' shows, Australians are living longer, and this progress indicator for physical health informs us about an aspect of the quality of life experienced. Having a disability does not necessarily equate to poor health or illness, and expected years with disability should not be considered as being of less value than expected years without disability.

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is a partial measure of physical health.



The data source is of acceptable quality.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to health than physical health. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of health have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

Mental health and wellbeing in Australia has progressed over the last decade

Indicator: Levels of psychological distress

Why is this element important?

Health is multidimensional, relating not just to someone's physical condition but also to their mental, emotional and social wellbeing.

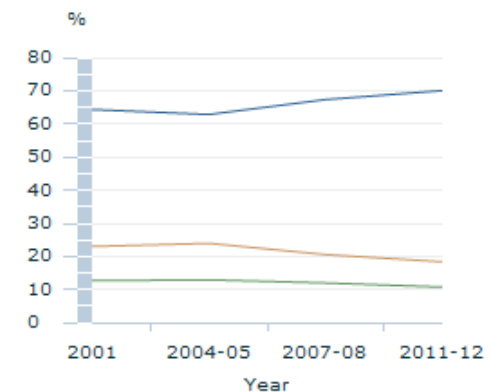
Mental health is a state of psychological, emotional and social wellbeing and is an important part of the aspiration for health. Mental health is fundamental to the wellbeing of individuals, their families and the population as a whole.

Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about health.

How have we decided there has been progress?

We have decided mental health and wellbeing in Australia has progressed since 2001 because the

Level of psychological distress(a)(b)



■ Low distress
 ■ Moderate distress
 ■ High/Very high distress(c)

Progress indicator ▼

Footnote (a) Levels of psychological distress are derived from the Kessler Psychological Distress Scale. Denominator includes a small number of persons for whom levels of psychological distress were unable to be determined or who were not asked. (b) Persons aged 18 years and over. (c) A score of 22 or more on the Kessler Psychological Distress Scale (K10).

Source ABS National Health Survey (cat no. 4364.0)
 ABS Australian Health Survey: Updated Results, 2011-12 (cat no. 4364.0.55.003)

Footnote(s): (a) Levels of psychological distress are derived from the Kessler Psychological Distress Scale. Denominator includes a small number of persons for whom levels of psychological distress were unable to be determined or who were not asked. (b) Persons aged 18 years and over. (c) A score of 22 or more on the Kessler Psychological Distress Scale (K10). ;(a)

Levels of psychological distress are derived from the Kessler Psychological Distress Scale. Denominator includes a small number of persons for whom levels of psychological distress were unable to be determined or who were not asked. (b) Persons aged 18 years and over. (c) A score of 22 or more on the Kessler Psychological Distress Scale (K10). ;(a) Levels of psychological distress are derived from the Kessler Psychological Distress Scale. Denominator includes a small number of persons for whom levels of psychological distress were unable to be determined or who were not asked. (b) Persons aged 18 years and over. (c) A score of 22 or more on the Kessler Psychological Distress Scale (K10).

Source(s): ABS National Health Survey (cat no. 4364.0); ABS Australian Health Survey: Updated Results, 2011-12 (cat no. 4364.0.55.003); ABS National Health Survey (cat no. 4364.0); ABS Australian Health Survey: Updated Results, 2011-12 (cat no. 4364.0.55.003); ABS National Health Survey (cat no. 4364.0); ABS Australian Health Survey: Updated Results, 2011-12 (cat no. 4364.0.55.003)

levels of psychological distress (our progress indicator for mental health and wellbeing) have decreased.

Between 2004-05 and 2011-2012, there has been a steady decrease in high/very high levels of psychological distress experienced across most age groups. An exception to this trend was a lack of change in the 18-24 age group over the last 4 years which remains steady at 12%.

Why this progress indicator?

Mental health is a state of emotional and social wellbeing and is an important part of the aspiration for health.

Levels of psychological distress measure a person's emotional state 4 weeks prior to being asked about it in the ABS National Health Survey. This is considered a good measure of progress for mental health and wellbeing as there is an association between high psychological distress and mental health conditions.

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is a partial measure of mental health and wellbeing.



The data source is of high quality.

Let's break it down!

In the ten years to 2011, there has been a steady trend where men are reporting lower levels of psychological distress than women and are less prone to experience high/very high levels of distress. In 2001, 69% of men and 60% of women were reporting low distress levels. In 2011-12 this trend continued, with the percentage of men experiencing low levels of distress still higher than women, 73% and 67% respectively.

The percentage of men experiencing high/very high levels of distress in 2001 was only 10% compared to women at 15%. Again in 2011-12, this steady trend remained, with men being less likely than women to experience high/very high levels of psychological distress, 9% and 13% respectively.

Use the drop down menu on the graph to look at other breakdowns of the indicator (graphs are also available on the further info page).

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to health than mental health and wellbeing. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of health have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

A data gap currently exists for quality health services

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

A range of possible indicators are being considered for quality health services, such as patient experiences in Australia and data about private health insurance. In order to capture the spirit of this idea in a measure, further development will need to be undertaken. We will continue to explore options for a suitable indicator in the future.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to health than quality health services. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of health have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

It is not clear if healthy lifestyles in Australia have progressed since 1995

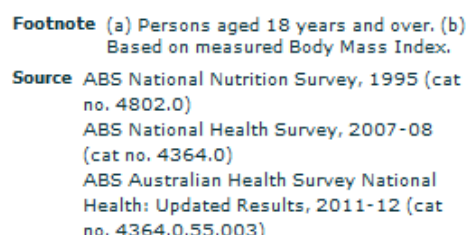
Indicator 1: Proportion of adults who are overweight or obese

Indicator 2: Smoking rates

Why is this element important?

Healthy lifestyles are important and contribute to such things as longevity and a person's physical and mental wellbeing.

Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about health.



Footnote(s): (a) Persons aged 18 years and over. (b) Based on measured Body Mass Index. ;(a) Persons aged 18 years and over. (b) Based on measured Body Mass Index.;(a) Persons aged 18 years and over.;(a) Persons aged 18 years and over.
Source(s): ABS National Nutrition Survey, 1995 (cat no. 4802.0); ABS National Health Survey, 2007-08 (cat no. 4364.0); ABS Australian Health Survey National Health: Updated Results, 2011-12 (cat no. 4364.0.55.003); ABS National Nutrition Survey, 1995 (cat no. 4802.0); ABS Australian Health Survey National Health: Updated Results, 2011-12 (cat no. 4364.0.55.003); ABS National Health Survey, 2001 (cat no. 4364.0); ABS National Health Survey, 2004-05 (cat no. 4364.0); ABS National Health Survey, 2007-08 (cat no. 4364.0); ABS Australian Health Survey: Updated Results, 2011-12 (cat no. 4364.0.55.003); ABS National Health Survey, 2001 (cat no. 4364.0); ABS Australian Health Survey: Updated Results, 2011-12 (cat no. 4364.0.55.003)

We have decided that a clear progress assessment cannot be made for healthy lifestyles in Australia because the two progress indicators for healthy lifestyles have not moved in the same direction.

The proportion of adults who are overweight or obese has risen gradually since 1995. In 2011-12, the proportion of adults who were overweight or obese was 63%, comprising 35% overweight and 28% obese, compared with 56% in 1995.

Conversely, the national smoking rate has decreased consistently over the past decade. In 2011-12, 16% of all adult Australians smoked daily (2.8 million people), a decrease from 19% (3.0 million people) in 2007-08 and 22% (3.2 million people) in 2001.


Why these progress indicators?

Both obesity and smoking are significant risk factors in a range of often preventable health conditions and are therefore important aspects of the aspiration for health.

The proportion of adults who are overweight or obese and the proportion of adults who are current daily smokers are considered good measures of progress for healthy lifestyles.

Quality assessment (see key)

These indicators are a partial measure of healthy lifestyles.

 The data source is of high quality.

Let's break it down!

Since 1995, the proportion of adults who are overweight or obese has risen across all age groups. The age group with the largest rise in the proportion of adults who are overweight or obese was the 35-44 years age group, with 65% (comprising 37% overweight and 28% obese) in 2011-12, compared with 57% (comprising 39% overweight and 18% obese) in 1995. In 2011-12, the proportion of adults aged 18-24 year olds who were overweight or obese was 36% (comprising 21% overweight and 15% obese), compared with 32% (comprising 22% overweight and 10% obese) in 1995.

In the ten years to 2011, smoking rates have decreased considerably amongst younger adults, while smaller decreases have occurred at older ages. In 2011-12, 17% of all 18-24 year olds were current daily smokers compared with 28% in 2001, while 20% of all 25-34 year olds were current daily smokers (compared with 30% in 2001). In 2011-12, 9% of all 65-74 year olds were current daily smokers compared with 11% in 2001.

A healthy lifestyle can contribute to a longer life expectancy. Smoking rates for Australia have decreased consistently between 2001 and 2011-12, but this is an example of national data hiding the outcome for smaller areas. Differences exist across areas of Australia, with smoking rates higher in regional and remote areas of Australia than in major cities. While rates have decreased in recent years in regional and remote areas, improvements have been greater in major cities. Further information about progress in rural and remote areas of Australia can be found in our 'Rural and Regional progress' chapter. It is possible that the decline in smoking rates has occurred as a result of concerted and sustained government tobacco control strategies, such as, increasing taxation of tobacco, advertising bans, mass media public education campaigns and smoke-free environments legislation.

As we have chosen to present two progress indicators for the element of healthy lifestyles, you can use the drop down menu on the graph to look at graphs relevant to each of these indicators (graphs are also available on the further info page).

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to health than healthy lifestyles. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of health have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

Healthy environments in Australia have not changed greatly since 2004

Indicator: Average air quality index for capital cities

Why is this element important?

Poor air quality has a range of negative impacts: it can cause health problems, damage infrastructure, reduce crop yields and harm flora and fauna. Air pollution occurs both naturally and as a result of human activities.

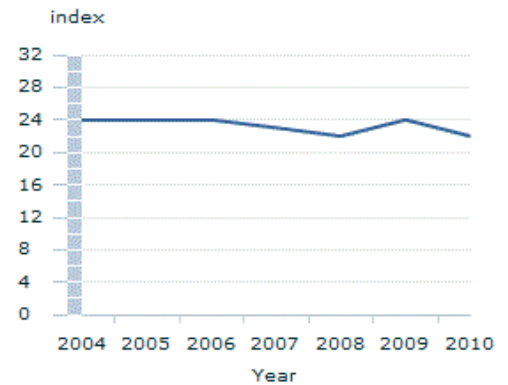
Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about health.

How have we decided things haven't changed greatly?

We have decided that there has been little change in the health of Australia's air in recent years because the average air quality index for capital cities (our progress indicator for air and atmosphere) hasn't moved much.

If the average air quality index had declined considerably over the period, this would be considered progress.

Average air quality index(a) of capital cities



Weighted capital city average(b)

Footnote (a) An average air quality index (AQI) of 100 or greater means that on average air quality standards have been exceeded. An AQI of 33 or less is considered very good. (b) This indicator takes the average AQI for all measured pollutants within each city, based on median concentrations, and brings them together as an overall average that is weighted by the cities' relative populations.

Source National Sustainability Council, 'Sustainable Australia Report 2013, Conversations with the future', Canberra, DSEWPac, 2013. ABS Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia, 2012 (cat. no. 3235.0)

Footnote(s): (a) An average air quality index (AQI) of 100 or greater means that on average air quality standards have been exceeded. An AQI of 33 or less is considered very good. (b) This indicator takes the average AQI for all measured pollutants within each city, based on median concentrations, and brings them together as an overall average that is weighted by the cities' relative populations.

Source(s): National Sustainability Council, 'Sustainable Australia Report 2013, Conversations with the future', Canberra, DSEWPac, 2013.; ABS Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia, 2012 (cat. no. 3235.0)

Between 2004 and 2010, the average air quality index for capital cities, showed no significant movement. The index was 24 in 2004 and 22 in 2010. These low values meant that on average air quality was very good and air pollution posed little or no risk. (Endnote 1)

Why this progress indicator?

The average air quality index for capital cities is an important part of the aspiration for healthy environments.


The average air quality index for capital cities is considered a good measure of progress for healthy environments because ultimately the best measure of air quality might simultaneously be able to consider the quality of Australia's air across the entire continent and for all relevant pollutants. The measure that we have used goes some way towards doing that, by summarising the average level of several pollutants across capital city 'airsheds' relative to their recommended levels.

However, this indicator has limitations. For example, the indicator uses air quality data from only selected monitoring stations across Australia (though these stations are at the capital cities, where population health may be at a greater risk from poor air quality). A further limitation is that the indicator is an average. Using averages, across many regions, tends to mask trends in the data that might illuminate important stories in more specific areas, or for particular pollutants.

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is a partial measure of healthy environments.

 The data source is of acceptable quality.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to health than healthy environments. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of health have progressed.

While this page has focussed on ambient air quality, information on the health of our atmosphere can be found in the 'Climate change' section of Measures of Australia's Progress 2013's 'Sustaining the environment' page.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

ENDNOTES

1. An air quality index (AQI) can be calculated by dividing pollutant concentrations by standards for maximum allowable concentrations set in the National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure (the 'NEPM'; available at <http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/C2004H03935>) and multiplying by 100. An index score of 66 or less is considered good, 33 or less is considered very good, while a score greater than 100 is considered poor. The figures used in Measures of Australia's Progress are averaged AQIs of median concentrations for all measured pollutants (carbon dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, sulphur dioxide, and particle matter).

Measures of Australia's Progress provides an average air quality index for capital cities, weighted by population. This means that each city's AQI contributes to the overall average proportionally relating to its population. For example, in 2010, Sydney's population represented almost one third of the overall capital city population, and therefore its AQI contributed to almost one third of the overall indicator.



Further info for health

Need some more info on the health theme? Hopefully this page can point you in the right direction

Contents

Useful links

Glossary

References

Graph summary

This page contains the following further information for health:

- Useful links
- Glossary
- References
- Graph summary

USEFUL LINKS

ABS Topics @ a Glance - Health

ABS Australian Health Survey

ABS Australian Health Survey: Updated Results, 2011-12 (cat no. 4364.0.55.003)

ABS National Health Survey, 2001 (cat no. 4364.0)

ABS National Health Survey, 2004-05 (cat no. 4364.0)

ABS National Health Survey, 2007-08 (cat no. 4364.0)

ABS Deaths, Australia, 2012 (cat. no. 3302.0)

ABS Private Health Insurance: A snapshot, 2004-05 (cat. no. 4815.0.55.001)

ABS National Nutrition Survey, 1995 (cat no. 4802.0)

ABS National Nutrition Survey: Selected Highlights, Australia, 1995 (cat. no. 4802.0)

ABS Patient Experiences in Australia: Summary of Findings, 2011-12 (cat. no. 4839.0)

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) - Changes in life expectancy and disability in Australia 1998 to 2009 <<http://www.aihw.gov.au>>

National Sustainability Council 2013 'Sustainable Australia Report 2013, Conversations with the future' <<http://www.environment.gov.au/>>

GLOSSARY

Air quality index

An air quality index (AQI) can be calculated by dividing pollutant concentrations by standards for maximum allowable concentrations set in the National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure (the 'NEPM'; available at <http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/C2004H03935>) and multiplying by 100. An index score of 66 or less is considered good, while a score greater than 100 is considered poor. The figures used in Measures of Australia's Progress are averaged AQIs of median concentrations for all measured pollutants (carbon dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, sulfur dioxide, and particle matter).

Measures of Australia's Progress provides an average air quality index for capital cities, weighted by population. This means that each city's AQI contributes to the overall average proportionally relating to its population. For example in 2010, Sydney's population represented 31% of the overall capital city population, and therefore its AQI contributed to almost a third of the overall indicator.

Body Mass Index (BMI)

Body Mass Index (BMI) is a simple index of weight-for-height that is commonly used to classify underweight, normal weight, overweight and obesity. It is calculated from height and weight information, using the formula weight (kg) divided by the square of height (m). To produce a measure of prevalence of underweight, normal weight, overweight or obesity in adults, BMI values are grouped according to the table below which allows categories to be reported against both World Health Organisation (WHO) and the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) guidelines.

BODY MASS INDEX, Adults

Category	Range
Underweight	Less than 18.50
Normal range	18.50 - 24.99
Overweight	25.00 - 29.99
Obese	30.00 or more

Current daily smoker

A current daily smoker is a respondent who reported at the time of interview that they regularly smoked one or more cigarettes, cigars or pipes per day.

Disability free life expectancy

Disability free life expectancy indicates the length of time people can expect to live without restriction to their day-to-day physical function or activity as a result of disability.

Life expectancy

Life expectancy refers to the average number of additional years a person of a given age and sex might expect to live if the age-specific death rates of the given period continued throughout his/her lifetime.

Life table

A life table is a tabular, numerical representation of mortality and survivorship of a cohort of births at each age of life. The conventional life table is based on the assumption that as the cohort passes through life it experiences mortality at each age in accordance with a predetermined pattern of mortality rates which do not change from year to year. The life table thus constitutes a hypothetical model of mortality, and even though it is usually based upon death rates from a real population during a particular period of time, it does not describe the real mortality which characterises a cohort as it ages.

Due to differences in mortality patterns between males and females at different ages, life tables are generally constructed separately for each sex.

Psychological distress

Derived from the Kessler Psychological Distress Scale (K10). This is a scale of non-specific psychological distress based on 10 questions about negative emotional states in the past 30 days. The K10 is scored from 10 to 50, with higher scores indicating a higher level of distress; low scores indicate a low level of distress. In this publication, scores are grouped as follows:

- Low levels of distress (10-15);
- Moderate levels of distress (16-21);
- High levels of distress (22-29); and
- Very high levels of distress (30-50).

Data was collected from respondents aged 18 years and over.

REFERENCES

Australian Government Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, 2010, 'State of the Air in Australia: 1999-2008', Canberra, DSEWPaC <<http://www.environment.gov.au/>>

National Sustainability Council, 2013, 'Sustainable Australia Report 2013, Conversations with the future', Canberra, DSEWPaC <<http://www.environment.gov.au/>>

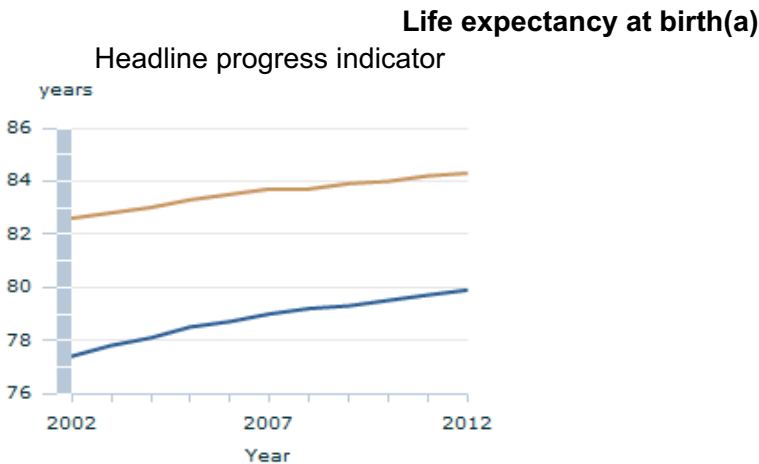
State of the Environment 2011 Committee, 2011, 'Australia: State of the environment, 2011', Independent

report to the Australian Government Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, Canberra, DSEWPaC <<http://www.environment.gov.au/>>

Click on the links below to be taken to a summary of the graphs from the corresponding tab within the Health theme:

- Overall progress?
- Physical health
- Mental health and wellbeing
- Healthy lifestyles
- Healthy environments

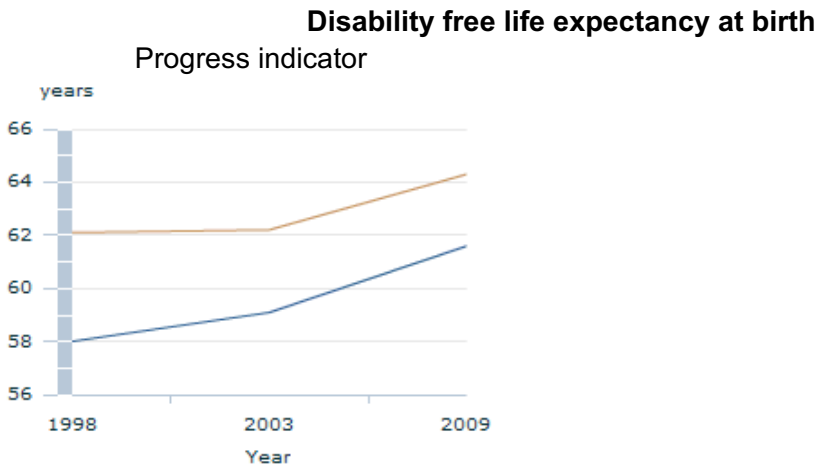
OVERALL PROGRESS?



Footnote:
(a) Life expectancy has been calculated using data for the three years ending in the reference year.
Source:
ABS Deaths, Australia, 2012 (cat. no. 3302.0)

[Back to top](#)

PHYSICAL HEALTH



Source:
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Changes in life expectancy and disability in Australia 1998-2009

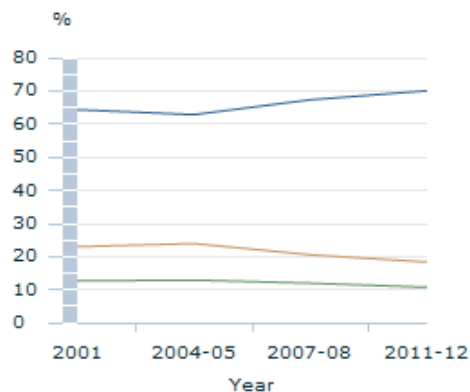
[Back to top](#)

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Level of psychological distress(a)(b)

Progress indicator

...for males



■ Low distress
 ■ Moderate distress
 ■ High/Very high distress(c)

Footnote:

(a) Levels of psychological distress are derived from the Kessler Psychological Distress Scale. Denominator includes a small number of persons for whom levels of psychological distress were unable to be determined or who were not asked.

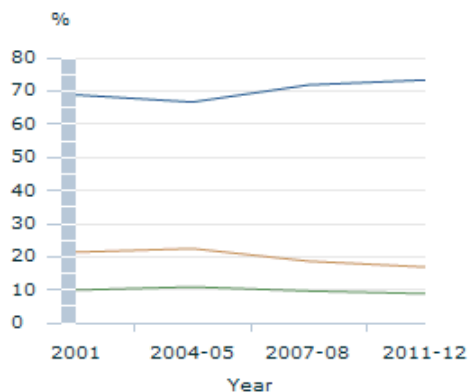
(b) Persons aged 18 years and over.

(c) A score of 22 or more on the Kessler Psychological Distress Scale (K10).

Source:

ABS National Health Survey (cat no. 4364.0)

ABS Australian Health Survey: Updated Results, 2011-12 (cat no. 4364.0.55.003)



■ Low distress
 ■ Moderate distress
 ■ High/Very high distress(c)

Footnote:

(a) Levels of psychological distress are derived from the Kessler Psychological Distress Scale. Denominator includes a small number of persons for whom levels of psychological distress were unable to be determined or who were not asked.

(b) Persons aged 18 years and over.

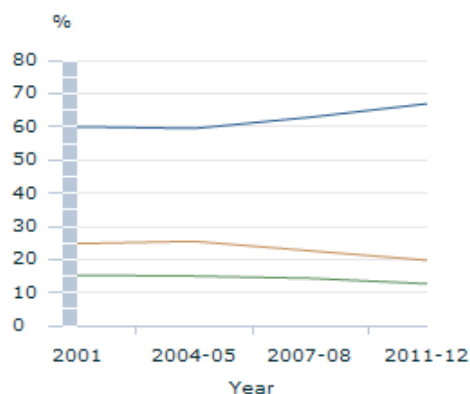
(c) A score of 22 or more on the Kessler Psychological Distress Scale (K10).

Source:

ABS National Health Survey (cat no. 4364.0)

ABS Australian Health Survey: Updated Results, 2011-12 (cat no. 4364.0.55.003)

...for females



■ Low distress
 ■ Moderate distress
 ■ High/Very high distress(c)

Footnote:

(a) Levels of psychological distress are derived from the Kessler Psychological Distress Scale. Denominator includes a small number of persons for whom levels of psychological distress were unable to be determined or who were not asked.

(b) Persons aged 18 years and over.

(c) A score of 22 or more on the Kessler Psychological Distress Scale (K10).

Source:

ABS National Health Survey (cat no. 4364.0)

ABS Australian Health Survey: Updated Results, 2011-12 (cat no. 4364.0.55.003)

[Back to top](#)

HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

Healthy lifestyles

Progress indicator - Overweight/obese(a)(b)

...Overweight/obese(a)(b), by age

Overweight or obese rate (%)



Footnote:

(a) Persons aged 18 years and over.

(b) Based on measured Body Mass Index.

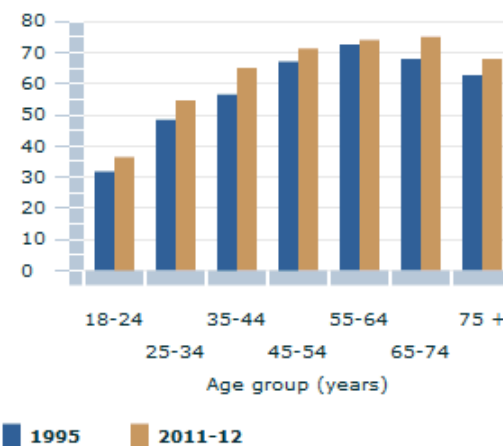
Source:

ABS National Nutrition Survey, 1995 (cat no. 4802.0)

ABS National Health Survey, 2007-08 (cat no. 4364.0)

ABS Australian Health Survey National Health: Updated Results, 2011-12 (cat no. 4364.0.55.003)

Overweight or obese rate (%)



Footnote:

(a) Persons aged 18 years and over.

(b) Based on measured Body Mass Index.

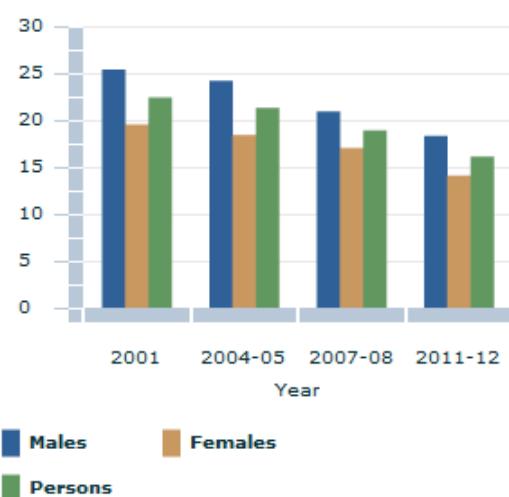
Source:

ABS National Nutrition Survey, 1995 (cat no. 4802.0)

ABS Australian Health Survey National Health: Updated Results, 2011-12 (cat no. 4364.0.55.003)

Progress indicator - Current daily smoker(a)

Smoking rate (%)



Footnote:

(a) Persons aged 18 years and over.

Source:

ABS National Health Survey, 2001 (cat no. 4364.0)

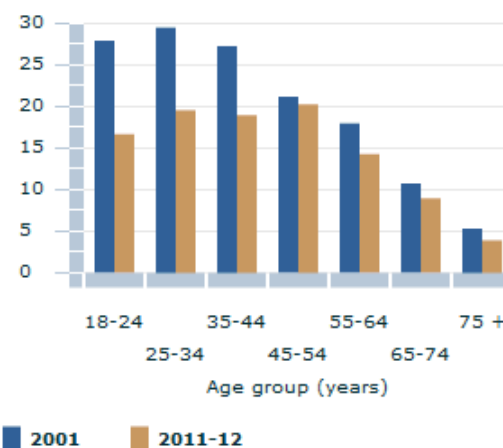
ABS National Health Survey, 2004-05 (cat no. 4364.0)

ABS National Health Survey, 2007-08 (cat no. 4364.0)

ABS Australian Health Survey: Updated Results, 2011-12 (cat no. 4364.0.55.003)

...Current daily smoker(a), by age

Smoking rate (%)



Footnote:

(a) Persons aged 18 years and over.

Source:

ABS National Health Survey, 2001 (cat no. 4364.0)

ABS Australian Health Survey: Updated Results, 2011-12 (cat no. 4364.0.55.003)

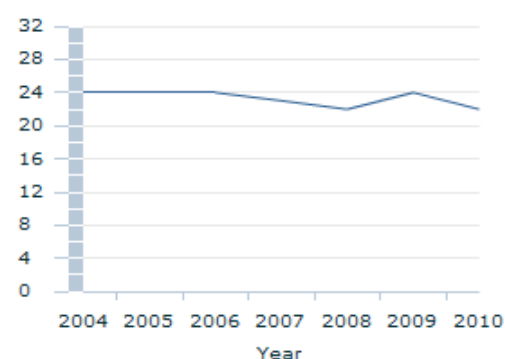
[Back to top](#)

HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS

Average air quality index(a) of capital cities(b)

Progress indicator

index



Footnote:

(a) An average air quality index (AQI) of 100 or greater means that on average air quality standards have been exceeded. An AQI of 33 or less is considered very good.

(b) This indicator takes the average AQI for all measured pollutants within each city, based on median concentrations, and brings them together as an overall average that is weighted by the cities' relative populations.

Source:

National Sustainability Council, 'Sustainable Australia Report 2013, Conversations with the future', Canberra, DSEWPaC, 2013.

ABS Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia, 2012 (cat. no. 3235.0)

[Back to top](#)

This page first published 9 May 2014



Close relationships

Australians aspire to a society that nurtures families and other close relationships that support people

Overall progress? **Overall progress?**

Positive relationships **Positive**

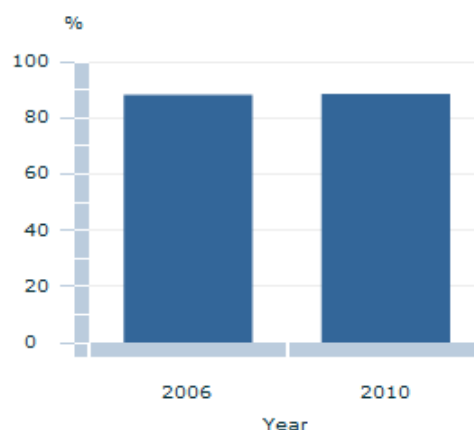
Caring relationships **Caring**

Thriving children **Children**

Time and opportunity **Time**

Relationship support **Support**

People who have family members living elsewhere that they can confide in(a)



Persons

Headline progress indicator | ▼

Footnote (a) Persons aged 18 years and over.

Source ABS General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia, 2006 & 2010 (cat. no. 4159.0)

Footnote(s): (a) Persons aged 18 years and over.;(a) Persons aged 18 years and over.;(a) Persons aged 18 years and over.

Source(s): ABS General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia, 2006 & 2010 (cat. no. 4159.0); ABS General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia, 2006 & 2010 (cat. no. 4159.0); ABS General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia, 2006 & 2010 (cat. no. 4159.0)



Close relationships in Australia have not changed greatly in recent years

Indicator: Proportion of people who have family members living elsewhere that they can confide in

Why is this theme important?

Australians told us that positive, close relationships have benefits for individuals and society overall. Positive relationships were seen to be caring, strong, healthy and loving ones, that function well and protect all members. They can be family relationships, which have a fundamental effect on wellbeing, or other close relationships where people care for and support one another. Positive close relationships were seen as vital for children if they are to thrive and go on to contribute to Australia's future. Many people agreed that sufficient time needs to be available to build and maintain positive relationships, especially during crucial times. People felt that relationships could be supported by society, through services and other support mechanisms.

How have we decided things haven't changed greatly?

We have decided that there has been little change in close relationships in Australia in recent years

because the proportion of people who have family members living elsewhere that they can confide in (our headline progress indicator for close relationships) hasn't moved much.

Although the numbers of Australians who have close relationships with family outside their household are consistently high, they would have to increase as a proportion of the population for an assessment of progress in close relationships to be made.

Between 2006 and 2010, the proportion of people who had family members living elsewhere that they could confide in didn't change significantly (88% and 89% of people, respectively).

Why this headline progress indicator?

Having supportive family networks to rely on is an important part of the aspiration for close relationships.

The proportion of people who have family members living elsewhere that they could confide in is considered a good measure of progress for close relationships because it provides insight into the importance people place on maintaining and relying on close family relationships.

Other than family within the household, family living elsewhere are often the people that individuals turn to for support when they are in a crisis and with whom they feel close. It is important to note that family strength is not the only quality measure of close relationships; it can extend to friends, colleagues and associates. Close relationships may be established through business interactions, friendships or other types of social and cultural commitments that are not captured by this indicator.

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is a partial measure of the concept of close relationships as described above (based on Aspirations for our Nation).



The data source is of high quality.

Let's break it down!

The proportion of people who have family members living elsewhere that they can confide in remained steady in 2006 and 2010 for all age groups, except for people aged 45-54 years, where there was an increase from 84% in 2006 to 88% in 2010. There was also no significant change in the proportion of men and women who had a family member living elsewhere that they could confide in between 2006 and 2010.

Use the drop down menu on the graph to look at other breakdowns of the indicator (graphs are also available on the further info page).

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to close relationships than the proportion of people who have family members living elsewhere that they can confide in. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of close relationships have progressed.

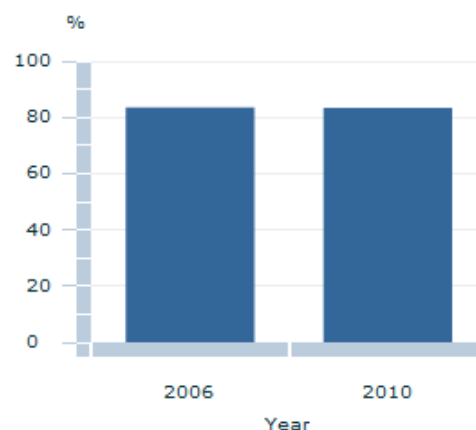
Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

Positive relationships in Australia have not changed greatly in recent years

Indicator: Proportion of people who feel they are able to have a say with family and friends on important issues all or most of the time

The strength of family and other relationships is a recognised social issue (ABS, 2001). Australians told us that positive relationships were seen to be caring, strong, healthy and loving ones, and are essential for individual wellbeing. As such, positive interpersonal relationships contribute to social progress. Australians felt that well-functioning, positive relationships protect and support their members and are

People that feel able to have a say with family or friends on important issues all or most of the time(a)



Persons

Progress indicator | ▼

Footnote (a) Persons aged 18 years and over.

Source ABS General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia (cat. no. 4159.0)

Footnote(s): (a) Persons aged 18 years and over.;(a) Persons aged 18 years and over.;(a) Persons aged 18 years and over.

Source(s): ABS General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia (cat. no. 4159.0); ABS General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia (cat. no. 4159.0); ABS General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia (cat. no. 4159.0)

resilient and mutually beneficial. They can be family relationships or other close relationships where people care for and support one another.

Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about close relationships.

How have we decided things haven't changed greatly?

We have decided that there has been little change in positive relationships in Australia in recent years because the proportion of people who feel they are able to have a say with family or friends on important issues all or most of the time (our progress indicator for positive relationships) hasn't moved much.

Although the proportion has not changed much, it remains consistently high suggesting that the vast majority of Australians continue to place importance on maintaining and strengthening positive relationships with their family and friends. For progress, we would expect to see an increase in this indicator.

Between 2006 and 2010, the proportion of people who felt able to have a say with family or friends on important issues all or most of the time remained steady at around 83%.

Why this progress indicator?

Being able to have a say with family or friends on important issues is an important part of the aspiration for close relationships.

The proportion of people who feel they are able to have a say with family or friends on important issues all or most of the time is considered a good measure of progress for positive relationships. This is because it indicates the extent of strong and accepting relationships that people have within their support network; that is, relationships in which people are able to express their needs and opinions whilst maintaining the close relationship, would appear to be positive, caring and resilient. Positive relationships are caring, strong, healthy and loving ones, that function well and protect all members. As this measure does not capture all of these different aspects of positive relationships, this indicator has been assessed as a partial measure of positive relationships.

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is a partial measure of positive relationships.



The data source is of high quality.

Let's break it down!

Between 2006 and 2010, the proportion of males and females who felt able to have a say with family or friends on important issues all or most of the time also remained steady, at around 83% and 84% respectively.

Across the majority of age groups, the proportion of people who felt able to have a say with family or friends on important issues all or most of the time didn't significantly change from 2006 to 2010. The exception to this was in the 45-54 and 55-64 age groups. The proportion of people aged 45-54 years who felt able to have a say significantly increased from 81% to 85%, whereas the proportion of those aged 55-64 years decreased from 84% to 78%.

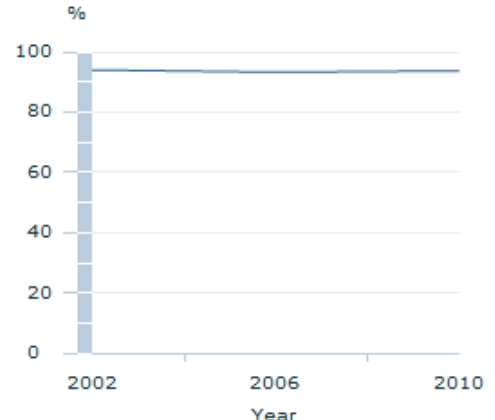
Use the drop down menu on the graph to look at other breakdowns of the indicator (graphs are also available on the further info page).

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to close relationships than positive relationships. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of close relationships have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

People that have a source of support in a time of crisis from persons outside the household(a)



Persons

Progress indicator ▼

Footnote (a) Persons aged 18 years and over.

Source ABS General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia (cat. no. 4159.0)

Footnote(s): (a) Persons aged 18 years and over.;

Source(s): ABS General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia (cat. no. 4159.0); ABS General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia (cat. no. 4159.0); ABS General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia (cat. no. 4159.0)

Caring relationships in Australia have not changed greatly since 2002

Indicator: Proportion of people that have a source of support in a time of crisis from persons outside the household

Why is this element important?

People are social beings. We require love, companionship and engagement with others to flourish.

Australians told us that family, friendship and other caring or cooperative social relationships are important at all stages of life, but particularly when people are least able to care for themselves. The absence of caring relationships can have a serious impact on personal wellbeing as well as on wider social cohesion.

Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about close relationships.

How have we decided things haven't changed greatly?

We have decided that there has been little change in caring relationships in Australia since 2002 because the proportion of people that have a source of support in a time of crisis from persons outside the household (our progress indicator for caring relationships) hasn't moved much.

For progress, we would expect to see an increase in this indicator.

Between 2002 and 2010, the proportion of people who have a source of support in a time of crisis from persons living outside the household remained steady at around 94%.

Why this progress indicator?

Having support in a time of crisis is an important part of the aspiration for close relationships.

The proportion of people who have a source of support in a time of crisis from persons living outside the household is considered a good measure of progress for caring relationships. Support provided by people outside of a person's household provides insight into the person's extended safety net of caring relationships. The provision of support in a time of difficulty or crisis informs us about whether a person is able to gain the support they need at such a time.

Families and communities are core structural elements in society and they take on a large portion of the economic and physical burden of care for individuals in society, particularly for children, aged people or people with disabilities. Caring relationships can exist in many forms such as providing economic resources, physical or emotional support.

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is a partial measure of caring relationships.



The data source is of high quality.

Let's break it down!

Between 2002 and 2010, the proportion of men and women who have a source of support in a time of crisis from persons living outside the household also remained steady, at around 93% and 94% respectively. There were also no significant changes across age groups between 2002 and 2010.

Use the drop down menu on the graph to look at other breakdowns of the indicator (graphs are also available on the further info page).

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to close relationships than caring relationships. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of close relationships have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

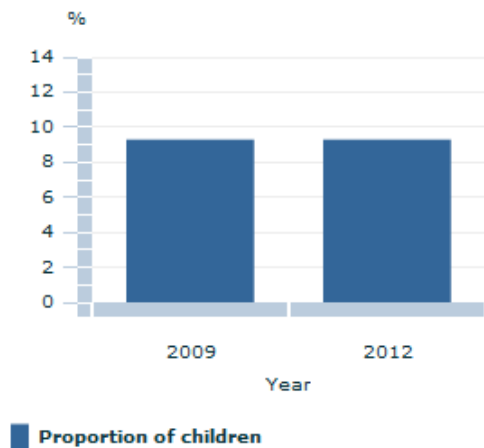
Opportunities for children to thrive in Australia have not changed greatly in recent years

Indicator: Proportion of children who are developmentally vulnerable due to their physical health and wellbeing

Why is this element important?

The early years of a child's life are considered to be critical for physical and emotional

Children who are developmentally vulnerable because of their physical health & wellbeing



Source: Australian Early Development Index, A Snapshot of Early Childhood Development in Australia, 2012

Source(s): Australian Early Development Index, A Snapshot of Early Childhood Development in Australia, 2012 development. Australian's told us that positive close relationships are vital for children if they are to thrive and go on to contribute to Australia's future.

Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about close relationships.

How have we decided things haven't changed greatly?

We have decided that there has been little change in opportunities for children to thrive in Australia in recent years because the proportion of children who are developmentally vulnerable due to their physical health and wellbeing (our progress indicator for thriving children) hasn't moved much.

For progress, we would expect to see a decrease in this indicator.

Between 2009 and 2012, the proportion of children who are developmentally vulnerable because of their physical health and wellbeing has remained unchanged at 9%.

Why this progress indicator?

The proportion of children who are developmentally vulnerable (because of their physical health and wellbeing) tells us about opportunities for children to thrive as part of the aspiration for close relationships.


The proportion of children who are developmentally vulnerable because of their physical health and wellbeing is considered a good measure of progress for thriving children because it provides an insight into childhood development, particularly of those children who are at risk of not developing the adequate skills required for their development - that is, not thriving in this regard. The physical health and wellbeing of the child refers to their physical readiness for the school day, physical independence and gross fine motor skills. However, we acknowledge that a child's physical health and wellbeing is only one aspect of their development.

This progress indicator is one part of the Australian Early Development Index (AEDI). The AEDI is a population measure of children's development as they enter school. The AEDI measures five areas of early childhood development: physical health and wellbeing, social competence, emotional maturity, language, cognitive skills and communication skills and general knowledge. You can find out more about the AEDI by visiting their website - <http://maps.aedi.org.au/>

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is a partial measure of opportunities for children to thrive.

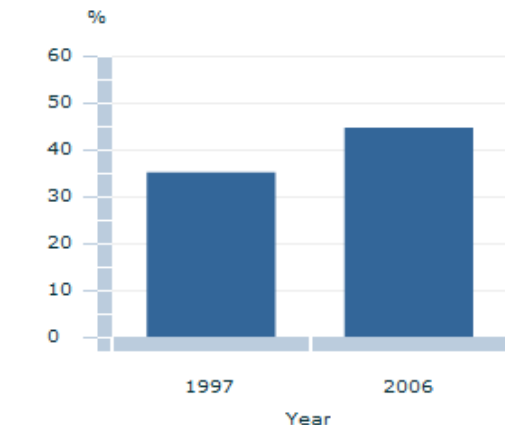
 The data source is of high quality.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to close relationships than opportunities for children to thrive. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of close relationships have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

People who feel rushed or pressed for time often or always(a)



 Persons

Progress indicator

Footnote (a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

Source ABS data available on request, 1997 Time Use Survey
ABS How Australians Use Their Time, 2006 (cat. no. 4153.0)

Footnote(s): (a) Persons aged 15 years and over.;(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.;^ Estimate for 75-84 year age group in 2006 has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution. * Estimates for the 85 years and over age group has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution. (a) Persons aged 15 years and over.;^ Estimate for Tas. in 2006 has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution. * Estimates for NT and ACT in 2006 have relative standard errors of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution. (a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

Source(s): ABS data available on request, 1997 Time Use Survey; ABS How Australians Use Their Time, 2006 (cat. no. 4153.0); ABS data available on request, 1997 Time Use Survey; ABS How Australians Use Their Time, 2006 (cat. no. 4153.0); ABS data available on request, 1997 Time Use Survey; ABS How Australians Use Their Time, 2006 (cat. no. 4153.0); ABS data available on request, 1997 Time Use Survey; ABS How Australians Use Their Time, 2006 (cat. no. 4153.0)

The availability of time and opportunity in Australia has regressed since 1997

Indicator: Proportion of people who feel rushed or pressed for time often or always

Why is this element important?

Australians felt that the availability of time for building and maintaining relationships was particularly important for creating connections that were positive, close, caring and that supported wellbeing. The opportunity to have time for relationships with loved ones was particularly important during crucial times, such as early childhood. Having the time and opportunity to undertake day-to-day activities is also important. Feelings of not having enough time to do the things that Australians feel are important to them can impact upon their overall wellbeing, as well as their relationships.

Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about close relationships.

How have we decided there has been regress?

We have decided that the availability of time and opportunity in Australia has regressed since 1997 because the proportion of people who feel rushed or pressed for time often or always (our progress indicator for time and opportunity) has increased.

Between 1997 and 2006, the proportion of Australians aged 15 years and over who often or always feel rushed or pressed for time increased by 10%, from 35% to 45%.

Why this progress indicator?

Having the time and opportunity to build and maintain positive relationships is an important part of the aspiration for close relationships.

Australians indicated that it was important to have enough time to devote to maintaining relationships and the extent to which people feel they don't have enough time, affects this aspiration. For this reason the proportion of people who feel rushed or pressed for time often or always is considered a good measure of progress for the availability of time and opportunity. The perception of whether a person has enough time to do the things they think are important, value, want or need to do, is essentially subjective and as such we have used a subjective measure - people's feelings about time. However, this measure does not directly relate to people's feelings about the availability of time for their relationships so is considered a partial measure.

Quality assessment (see key)



This indicator is a partial measure of the availability of time and opportunity.



The data source is of high quality.

Let's break it down!

As a proportion of the population, women felt more pressed for time than men in both 1997 and 2006.

Across all age groups, the 35-44 age group had the highest proportion of people who felt rushed or pressed for time in both 1997 and 2006. People's feelings of not having enough time is related to the things that they feel they should and need to do. The feelings of the 35-44 age group possibly reflect the many conflicting demands that occur during this stage in life, such as work and family commitments.

In 2006, Western Australia was found to have the highest proportion of people who felt rushed or pressed for time at 47%, whereas the lowest proportion of people was in Queensland (41%).

Use the drop down menu on the graph to look at other breakdowns of the indicator (graphs are also available on the further info page).

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to close relationships than the availability of time and opportunity. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of close relationships have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

A data gap currently exists for relationship support

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

In order to capture the spirit of this idea in a measure, further development will need to be undertaken. We will continue to explore options for a suitable indicator in the future.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to close relationships than relationship support. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of close relationships have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

This page first published 14 November 2013, last updated 8 May 2014



Further info for close relationships

Need some more info on the close relationships theme? Hopefully this page can point you in the right direction

Contents

Useful links

Glossary

References

Graph summary

This page contains the following further information for close relationships:

- Useful links
- Glossary
- References
- Graph summary

USEFUL LINKS

ABS How Australians Use Their Time, 2006 (cat. no. 4153.0)

ABS General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia, 2010 (cat. no. 4159.0)

ABS Measuring Wellbeing: Framework for Australian Statistics, 2001 (cat. no. 4160.0)

ABS Schools Australia, 2012 (cat. no. 4221.0)

ABS Family Characteristics, Australia, 2009-10 (cat. no. 4442.0)

Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) <<http://www.rch.org.au/aedi/>>

Relationships Australia <<http://www.relationships.org.au/>>

GLOSSARY

Australian Early Development Index (AEDI)

A population measure of young children's development as they enter their first year of formal school. Information for the AEDI is collected through a teacher-completed checklist that measures five areas of early childhood development. These five areas are closely linked to predictors of adult health, education and social outcomes. The five areas are; physical health and wellbeing, social competence, social maturity, language and cognitive skills(school-based) and communication skills and general knowledge. You can read more about the AEDI on their website - <http://www.rch.org.au/aedi/>

Developmentally vulnerable

Children who scored below the 10th percentile (in the lowest 10 per cent) of the national population were classified as vulnerable, based on the results from the Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) data collection.

Family

Two or more persons, one of whom is at least 15 years of age, who are related by blood, marriage (registered or defacto), adoption, step or fostering, and who are usually resident in the same household. The basis of a family is formed by identifying the presence of a couple relationship, lone parent child relationship or other blood relationship. Some households will, therefore, contain more than one family.

Household

One or more persons usually resident in the same private dwelling.

Physical health and wellbeing domain

This Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) domain measures a child's physical readiness for the school day, physical independence and gross and fine motor skills.

Support in time of crisis

Refers to whether there is someone outside the person's household that could be asked for support in a time of crisis. Support could be in the form of emotional, physical or financial help. Potential sources of support could be family members, friends, neighbours, work colleagues and various community, government and professional organisations.

REFERENCES

Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2001, Measuring Wellbeing: Frameworks for Australian Social Statistics, 2001 (cat. no. 4160.0)

Click on the links below to be taken to a summary of the graphs from the corresponding tab within the Close relationships theme:

Overall progress?

Positive relationships

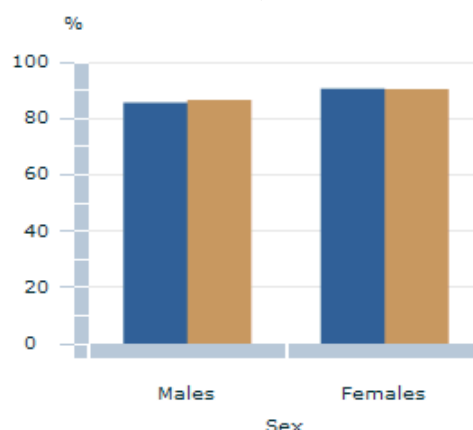
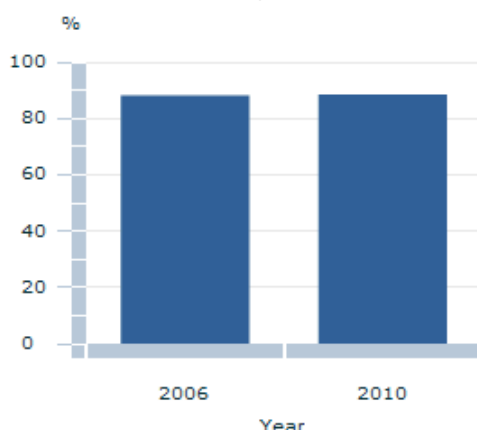
Caring relationships

Thriving children

Time and support

OVERALL PROGRESS?

People who have family members living elsewhere that they can confide in(a)
Headline progress indicator ...by sex



Footnote:

(a) Persons aged 18 years and over.

Source:

ABS General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia, 2006 & 2010 (cat. no. 4159.0)

■ 2006

■ 2010

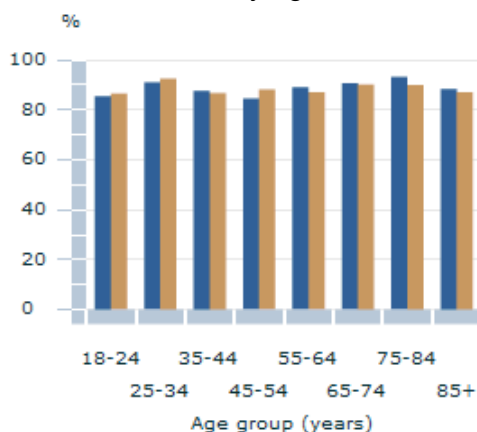
Footnote:

(a) Persons aged 18 years and over.

Source:

ABS General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia, 2006 & 2010 (cat. no. 4159.0)

...by age



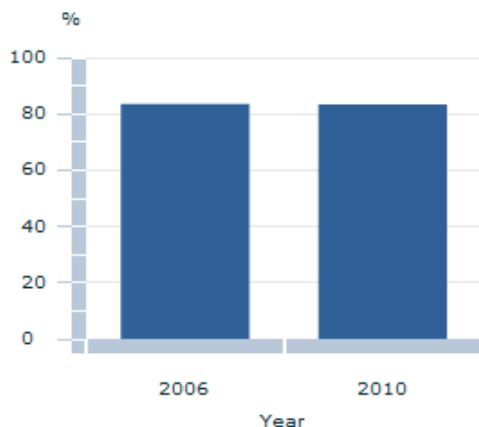
■ 2006

■ 2010

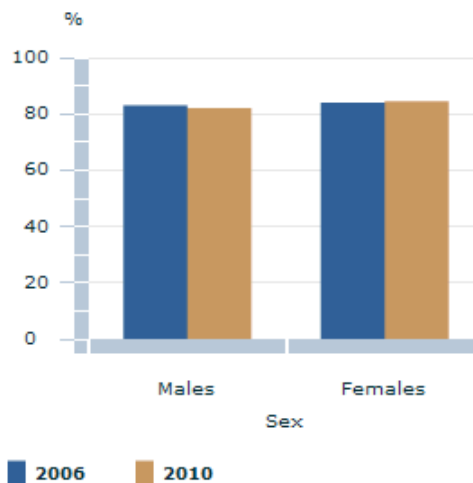
POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS

People that feel able to have a say with family or friends on important issues all or most of the time(a)

Progress indicator



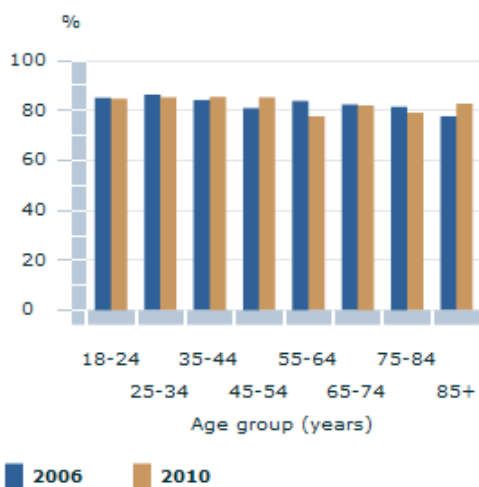
...by sex



Footnote:
(a) Persons aged 18 years and over.
Source:
ABS General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia (cat. no. 4159.0)

Footnote:
(a) Persons aged 18 years and over.
Source:
ABS General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia (cat. no. 4159.0)

...by age



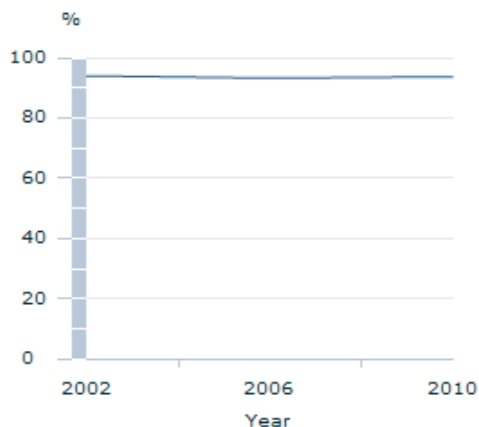
Footnote:
(a) Persons aged 18 years and over.
Source:
ABS General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia (cat. no. 4159.0)

CARING RELATIONSHIPS

People that have a source of support in a time of crisis from persons outside the household(a)

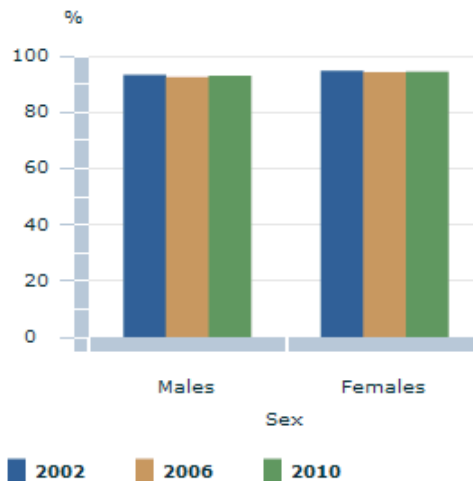
Progress indicator

...by sex



Footnote:
(a) Persons aged 18 years and over.

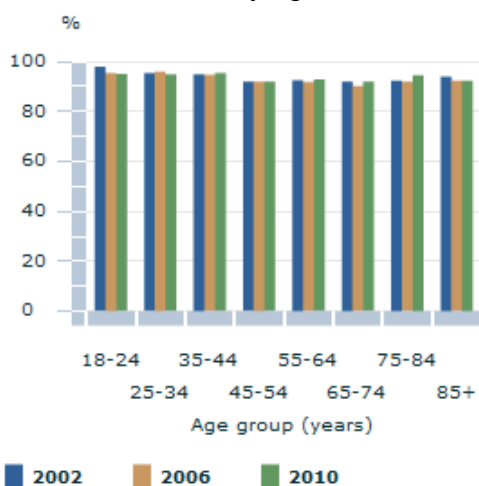
Source:
ABS General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia (cat. no. 4159.0)



Footnote:
(a) Persons aged 18 years and over.

Source:
ABS General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia (cat. no. 4159.0)

...by age



Footnote:
(a) Persons aged 18 years and over.

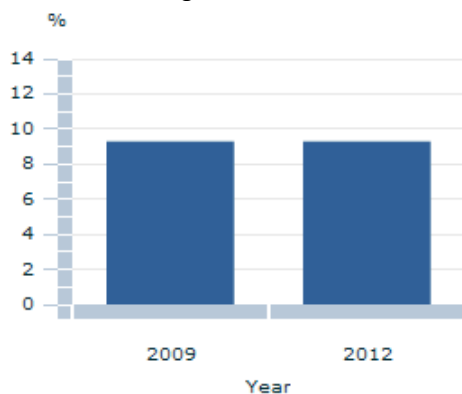
Source:
ABS General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia (cat. no. 4159.0)

[Back to top](#)

THRIVING CHILDREN

Children who are developmentally vulnerable because of their physical health & wellbeing

Progress indicator



Source:
Australian Early Development Index, A Snapshot of Early Childhood Development in Australia, 2012

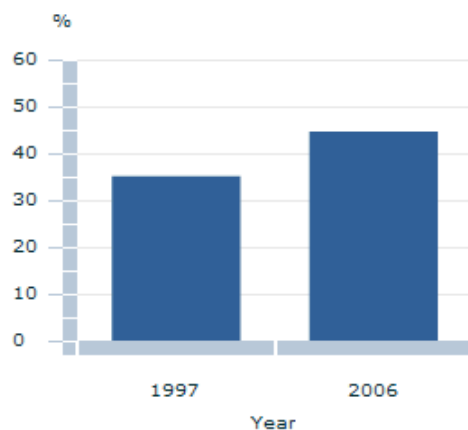
[Back to top](#)

TIME AND SUPPORT

People who feel rushed or pressed for time often or always(a)

Progress indicator

...sex



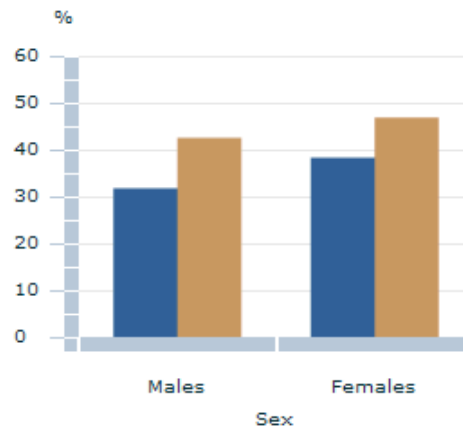
Footnote:

(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

Source:

ABS data available on request, 1997 Time Use Survey

ABS How Australians Use Their Time, 2006 (cat. no. 4153.0)



■ 1997 ■ 2006

Footnote:

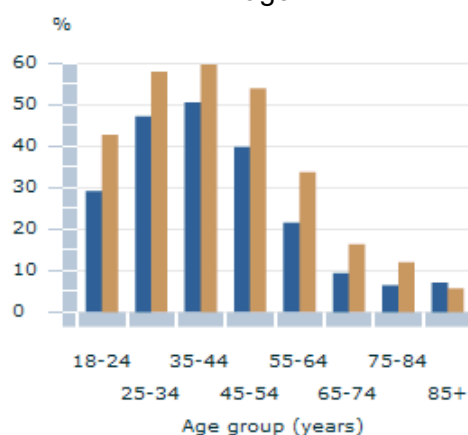
(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

Source:

ABS data available on request, 1997 Time Use Survey

ABS How Australians Use Their Time, 2006 (cat. no. 4153.0)

...age



■ 1997 ■ 2006

Footnote:

^ Estimate for 75-84 year age group in 2006 has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution.

* Estimates for the 85 years and over age group has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution.

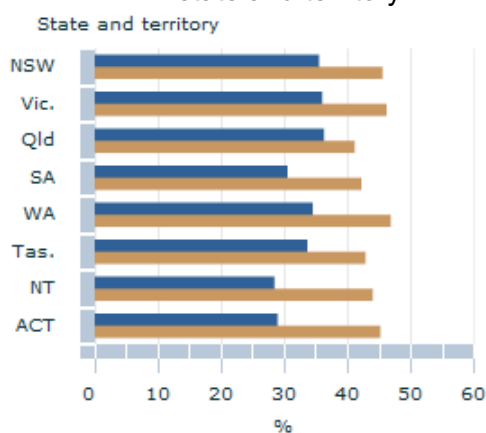
(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

Source:

ABS data available on request, 1997 Time Use Survey

ABS How Australians Use Their Time, 2006 (cat. no. 4153.0)

...state and territory



■ 1997 ■ 2006

Footnote:

^ Estimate for Tas. in 2006 has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution.

* Estimates for NT and ACT in 2006 have relative standard errors of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution.

(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

Source:

ABS data available on request, 1997 Time Use Survey

ABS How Australians Use Their Time, 2006 (cat. no. 4153.0)

[Back to top](#)



Home

Australians aspire to have secure places to live that provide a sense of belonging and home, and are adequate to their needs

Overall progress? **Overall progress?**

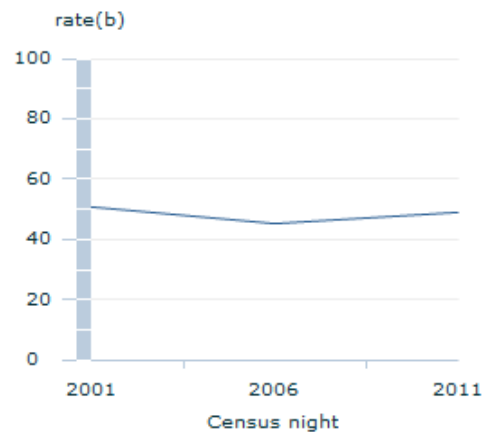
Adequate housing **Adequate housing**

Affordable housing **Affordable housing**

Tenure **Tenure**

Belonging **Belonging**

Homelessness rate per 10,000 population(a)



Homelessness rate

Headline progress indicator

Footnote (a) Based on ABS statistical definition of homelessness. (b) Rates are based on the census count of persons (based on place of usual residence, excluding usual residents of external territories, at sea, migratory and offshore regions).

Source ABS Census of Population and Housing: Estimating homelessness, 2011 (cat. no. 2049.0)

Footnote(s): (a) Based on ABS statistical definition of homelessness. (b) Rates are based on the census count of persons (based on place of usual residence, excluding usual residents of external territories, at sea, migratory and offshore regions).;(a) Based on ABS statistical definition of homelessness. (b) Rates are based on the census count of persons (based on place of usual residence, excluding usual residents of external territories, at sea, migratory and offshore regions).;(c) Data is not available for 2001.;(a) Based on ABS statistical definition of homelessness. (b) Rates are based on the census count of persons (based on place of usual residence, excluding usual residents of external territories, at sea, migratory and offshore regions).;(c) Data is not available for 2001.;(a) Based on ABS statistical definition of homelessness. (b) Rates are based on the census count of persons (based on place of usual residence, excluding usual residents of external territories, at sea, migratory and offshore regions).;(a) Based on ABS statistical definition of homelessness. (b) Rates are based on the census count of persons (based on place of usual residence, excluding usual residents of external territories, at sea, migratory and offshore regions).

Source(s): ABS Census of Population and Housing: Estimating homelessness, 2011 (cat. no. 2049.0); ABS Census of Population and Housing: Estimating homelessness, 2011 (cat. no. 2049.0); ABS Census of Population and Housing: Estimating homelessness, 2011 (cat. no. 2049.0); ABS Census of Population and Housing: Estimating homelessness, 2011 (cat. no. 2049.0); ABS Census of Population and Housing: Estimating homelessness, 2011 (cat. no. 2049.0)



Home in Australia has not changed greatly over the last decade

Indicator: Homelessness rate

Why is this theme important?

Australians told us that 'home' means a great deal to people in many different ways. A home provides shelter from the elements, privacy, safety from harm, and the essential infrastructure needed for living with dignity. A home can also contribute to a sense of belonging, of being settled and engender feelings of pride, security and ownership. Homes can be central to building positive relationships and communities. For a home to provide these wellbeing and social benefits, it should be adequately constructed, equipped with necessary amenities and provide sufficient space for social relations and located so that services and amenities are accessible. Also, a home needs to be affordable and appropriate for those living in them. For example, it should cater for the different needs of people at different stages of life, their physical abilities, and their cultural context.

How have we decided things haven't changed greatly?

We have decided there has been little change in the theme of home in Australia since 2001 because the measure we have chosen as the headline progress indicator for home, the homelessness rate, has shown little progress.

The homelessness rate was 49 persons for every 10,000 persons counted in the most recent 2011 Census. This is up 8% from the 45 persons for every 10,000 in 2006, but down on the 51 persons for every 10,000 in 2001.

However, based on the numbers of homeless people, there were more people homeless on census night 2011 than in either 2006 or 2001. In 2011, it is estimated that 105,237 people were homeless on census night, an increase from 89,728 people estimated to be homeless in 2006 and the 95,314 in 2001.

Why this headline progress indicator?

Having a home that is adequate, with security of tenure and access to and control of space is an important part of the aspiration for home.

The homelessness rate is considered a good measure of progress for home because it represents the absence of these core elements of a 'home'. The ABS definition of homelessness is informed by an understanding of homelessness as 'home'lessness, not 'roof'lessness (ABS, 2012) and therefore includes those people living in overcrowded housing. The ABS definition also emphasises a sense of security, stability, privacy, safety, and the ability to control living space as core elements of 'home'. Homelessness is therefore a lack of one or more of the elements that represent 'home'. Tracking the 'progress' of homelessness as an indicator is one way of assessing whether we are closer to achieving the aspiration for home.

For more information on homelessness see Information Paper: A Statistical Definition of Homelessness (cat. no. 4922.0).

The estimated homelessness rate is a clear progress indicator as it is able to show whether there has been change over time and the direction of that change.

Quality assessment (see key)



This indicator is a partial measure of the concept of home as described above (based on Aspirations for our Nation).



The data source is of high quality.

Let's break it down!

In 2011, the homelessness rate rose by 20% or more in New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory from 2006. The Northern Territory had the largest decrease between 2006 and 2011, where the homelessness rate decreased by 8%. The Northern Territory had the highest rate of homelessness of any state and territory.

Most of the increase in homelessness between 2006 and 2011 was due to an increase in the number of people living in severely overcrowded dwellings, up from 31,531 in 2006 to 41,390 in 2011. Younger Australians were more likely to be homeless with 60% of all homeless people in 2011 aged under 35 years old.

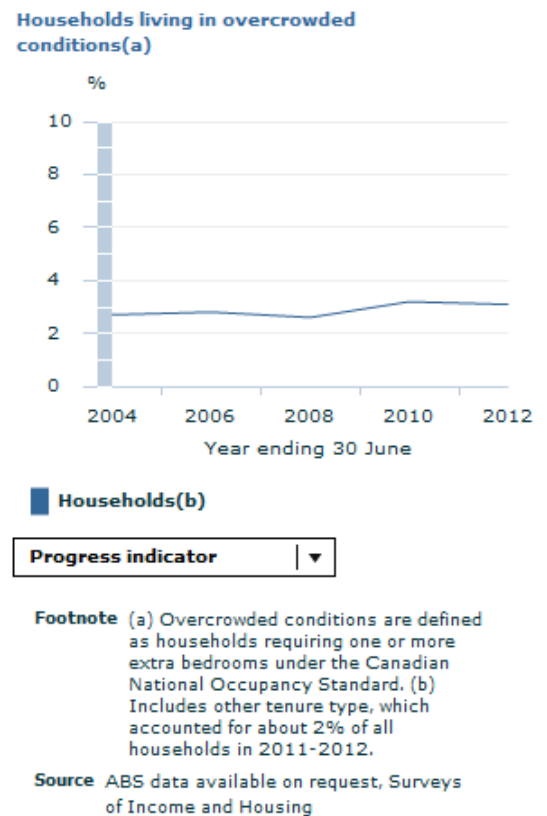
Males were also more likely to be homeless, with the rate being 56 homeless males for every 10,000 males, compared with 42 homeless females for every 10,000 females. This was an increase for males from 2006 (up from 52 homeless males per 10,000 males) and for females (up from 38 females per 10,000 females).

Use the drop down menu on the graph to look at other breakdowns of the indicator (graphs are also available on the further info page).

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to home than the homelessness rate. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of home have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.



Footnote(s): (a) Overcrowded conditions are defined as households requiring one or more extra bedrooms under the Canadian National Occupancy Standard. (b) Includes other tenure type, which accounted for about 2% of all households in 2011-2012.;(a) Overcrowded conditions are defined as households requiring one or more extra bedrooms under the Canadian National Occupancy Standard.;(a) Overcrowded conditions are defined as households requiring one or more extra bedrooms under the Canadian National Occupancy Standard. (b) Includes other landlord type, which accounted for about 4% of all renters in 2011-12.

Source(s): ABS data available on request, Surveys of Income and Housing; ABS data available on request, Surveys of Income and Housing; ABS data available on request, Surveys of Income and Housing

Adequate housing in Australia has not changed greatly since 2004

Indicator: Proportion of households living in overcrowded conditions

Why is this element important?

Housing adequacy is a relative concept and can be considered in a number of ways depending on peoples' views of what is adequate. For this element, housing adequacy is defined as the suitability of a home to permit a reasonable quality of life, with adequate access to employment and education; health and community services and public amenities. This covers aspects such as whether a home is of sufficient size so that its occupants are not living in overcrowded conditions; whether a home is in reasonable repair; provides the basic amenities; and is located to allow access to essential services.

Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about home.

How have we decided things haven't changed greatly?

We have decided adequate housing in Australia has shown little change since 2004 because the number of households living in overcrowded conditions (our progress indicator for adequate housing) hasn't moved much.

In 2011-12, the proportion of households living in overcrowded conditions was 3%, which was unchanged since 2003-04. Australian households were assessed as overcrowded where they required one or more extra bedrooms to accommodate the usual residents, as defined by the Canadian National Occupancy Standard (CNOS) (an international measure of housing utilisation which is widely used - see glossary).

Why this progress indicator?

Housing adequacy is an important part of the aspiration for home and reflects the suitability of a home to allow a reasonable quality of life.

Households living in overcrowded conditions is considered a good measure of progress for adequate housing because it indicates whether Australians have access to appropriate housing which is of sufficient size. Living in overcrowded conditions impacts people's ability to have privacy and control of space in their homes and is likely to have impacts on the health and wellbeing of people. However, there are many other aspects of adequate housing that are not covered by this indicator including whether a dwelling is in reasonable repair and provides the basic amenities and has a sufficient location to allow for access to services which are considered essential by the community.

Quality assessment (see key)



This indicator is a partial measure of adequate housing.



The data source is of high quality.

Let's break it down!

Households that owned their own homes (with or without a mortgage) were less likely to be living in overcrowded conditions (2% in 2011-12) than Australian households which were renting (5.5% in 2011-12). Households who owned their home without a mortgage were the least likely to be living in overcrowded households (1.2% in 2011-12). Those renting in the private market were more likely to be living in overcrowded conditions than other Australian households (6% in 2011-12).

Use the drop down menu on the graph to look at other breakdowns of the indicator (graphs are also available on the further info page).

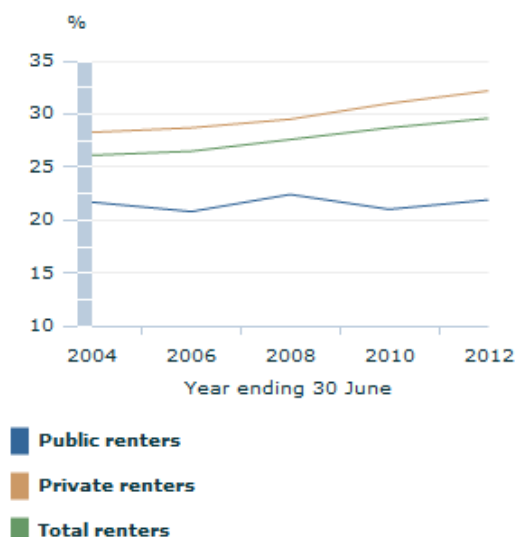
But that is not the whole story...

There is more to home than adequate housing. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of home have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

Affordable housing in Australia has regressed since 2004

Rental costs(a) as a proportion of household income(b)(c) for low income rental households(d)(e)(f)



Footnote (a) Rental costs is amount paid in rent plus general and water rates paid by the household less Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA). (b) Household income is gross household income excluding CRA. (c) Excludes households with nil or negative household income. (d) Estimates presented from 2007-08 onwards are not directly comparable with estimates for previous cycles due to improvements made to measuring income introduced in the 2007-08 cycle. Estimates for 2003-04 and 2005-06 have been recompiled to reflect the new treatments of income, however not all new components introduced in 2007-08 are available for earlier cycles. (e) Low income households are those in the bottom two quintiles of equivalised disposable household income excluding CRA. (f) Includes other landlord type, which accounted for about 4% of all renters in 2011-12.

Source ABS data available on request, Surveys of Income and Housing

Footnote(s): (a) Rental costs is amount paid in rent plus general and water rates paid by the household less Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA). (b) Household income is gross household income excluding CRA. (c) Excludes households with nil or negative household income. (d) Estimates presented from 2007-08 onwards are not directly comparable with estimates for previous cycles due to improvements made to measuring income introduced in the 2007-08 cycle. Estimates for 2003-04 and 2005-06 have been recompiled to reflect the new treatments of income, however not all new components introduced in 2007-08 are available for earlier cycles. (e) Low income households are those in the bottom two quintiles of equivalised disposable household income excluding CRA. (f) Includes other landlord type, which accounted for about 4% of all renters in 2011-12.

Source(s): ABS data available on request, Surveys of Income and Housing

Indicator: Rental costs as a proportion of household income for low income rental households

Why is this element important?

Housing affordability is most often seen as the capacity of households to meet their current and future housing costs from their own economic resources. Those resources are mainly their current and future incomes, but may also include assets. Many households exercise choice in making their consumption, savings or investment decisions, including for housing. Housing affordability measures should shed light on the economic circumstances of households that may experience difficulty entering or remaining in the housing market, because of their limited economic resources or changing circumstances.

Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about home.

How have we decided there has been regress?

We have decided affordable housing in Australia has regressed since 2004 because rental costs as a proportion of household income for low income rental households, (our progress indicator for affordable

housing) have increased.

Since 2004, rental affordability for low income households in Australia has declined. Rental costs as a proportion of household income for low income rental households was 26% in 2003-04, compared to 30% in 2011-12. There has been an increase in rental costs as a proportion of household income for low income private renter households from 28% in 2003-04 to 32% in 2011-12; whereas rental costs as a proportion of household income for low income public renters have not changed significantly from 2003-04 to 2011-12 (at approximately 22%).

Why this progress indicator?

Affordable housing is an important part of the aspiration for home. As housing costs are often the largest regular expense to be met out of a household's income, rising housing costs can influence the amount of income households have available to meet other needs. Most Australian households are able to exercise a significant degree of housing choice when making their consumption, savings, and investment decisions. But for many low income households, renting is often the only affordable option, and suitable rental dwellings can become less accessible when rents rise faster than incomes.

Rental costs as a proportion of household income for low income rental households is considered a good measure of progress for affordable housing because it tells us about how well those with limited economic resources can access affordable housing. This is an important consideration when assessing whether housing affordability in Australia is getting better. Low income rental affordability (the proportion of rental costs to household income) measures the ability of low income households to access affordable rental accommodation - a fundamental requirement for those who, due to their limited economic resources, are likely to have to rent. An increase in this proportion reflects increasing difficulty for people with lower incomes to both access suitable rental accommodation and meet other costs of living (as households are required to spend more of their household income, at the expense of other household costs or savings). In contrast, if the proportion declines, then households will have less financial pressure in meeting their various non-housing costs of living, or saving requirements.

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is a direct measure of affordable housing.



The data source is of high quality.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to home than affordable housing. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of home have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

Tenure, as measured by the level of home ownership in Australia, has regressed since 1995

Indicator: Proportion of households that own their own home (with or without a mortgage)

Why is this element important?

Australians told us that having secure tenure is an important aspect of home. Tenure not only refers to a person's legal right to occupy a dwelling but the stability and security that it provides. Tenure can include owning (with or without a mortgage) a dwelling and /or land; and renting, with a formal lease or similar

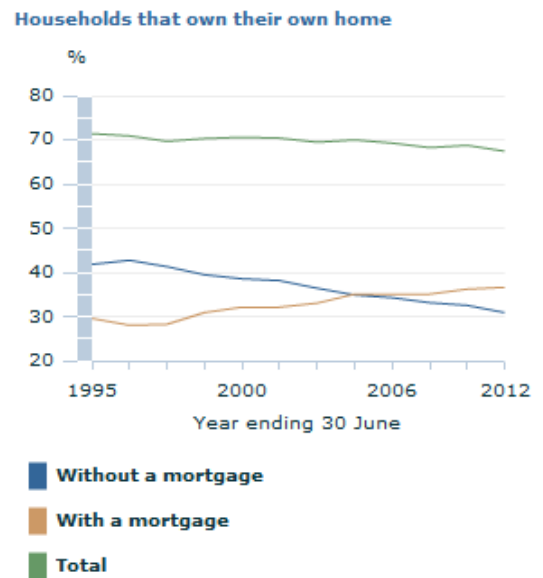
arrangement. Those who own their own homes are widely considered to have greater security in being able to stay in the dwelling, freedom to modify it and the ability to use it as a substantial financial asset. However, there are benefits of renting as well, including; a smaller financial commitment, opportunity of making financial investments in other assets and the flexibility to move elsewhere.

Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about home.

How have we decided there has been regress?

We have decided tenure in Australia has regressed since 1995 because the proportion of households that own their home (with or without a mortgage), our progress indicator for tenure, has decreased.

Source(s): ABS data available on request, Surveys of Income and Housing



Since the mid-nineties, the proportion of Australian households that own their own home (with or without a mortgage) has declined from 71% (or 4.7 million owners) to 67% (or 5.8 million owners) in 2012.

The decline in home ownership may be a result of a number of factors such as affordability or changing work or family circumstances. Over this period there has been a decline in the proportion of Australian households that own their home without a mortgage, from 42% in 1995 to 31% in 2012 and an increase in the proportion of households that own their home with a mortgage, from 30% in 1995 to 37% in 2012. The decline in outright home ownership may, in part, reflect increasing uptake of flexible low-cost financing options which allows households to extend their existing home mortgages for purposes other than the original home purchase. This indicator reflects the proportions of households which occupy a home which they own; however there is also a proportion of households which own residential property which they do not currently reside in (4% in 2011-12).

Why this progress indicator?

Tenure is an important part of the aspiration for home.

The proportion of households that own their home (with or without a mortgage) is considered a good measure of progress of tenure because it captures a substantial group of those who have tenure in the housing market in Australia. Renters are also an important group who have tenure in the housing market, although this tenure is less secure. Changes in tenure patterns (i.e. between ownership and renting) over time may reflect the choices that Australians make in relation to their housing and investment options.

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is a partial measure of tenure.



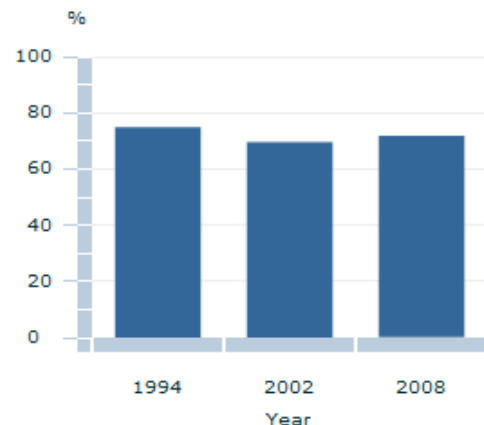
The data source is of high quality.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to home than tenure. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of home have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people who recognise an area as homelands or traditional country(a)



Persons

Progress indicator ▼

Footnote (a) People aged 15 years and over.

Source ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey, 1994 (cat no 4190.0); ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2002 and 2008 (cat. no. 4714.0)

Footnote(s): (a) People aged 15 years and over.;(a) People aged 15 years and over.;(a) People aged 15 years or over.;(a) People aged 15 years or over.

Source(s): ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey, 1994 (cat no 4190.0); ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2002 and 2008 (cat. no. 4714.0); ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey, 1994 (cat no 4190.0); ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2002 and 2008 (cat. no. 4714.0); ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey, 1994 (cat no 4190.0); ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2002 and 2008 (cat. no. 4714.0); ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey, 1994 (cat no 4190.0); ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2002 and 2008 (cat. no. 4714.0)

A sense of belonging in Australia has not changed greatly since 1994

Indicator: Proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who recognise an area as homelands or traditional country

Why is this element important?

Home means a great deal to people in many different ways. It contributes to a sense of belonging, of being settled and engenders feelings of pride, security and ownership. Australians thought that the feeling of belonging was an important part of people's sense of home, expressing the emotional, spiritual and physical ties that may exist between humans and the places where they feel they belong and are at home.

Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about home.

How have we decided things haven't changed greatly?

We have decided Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' sense of belonging to their homelands in Australia has shown little change since 1994 because the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who recognise an area as homelands or traditional country, hasn't moved much.

In 2008, 72% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people recognised an area as their homelands or traditional country, a similar rate to that in the mid-nineties of 75%. Recognition of an area as homeland or traditional country for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is not related specifically to men or

women, it is culturally significant, with men and women equally likely to recognise an area as their homeland or traditional country.

Why this progress indicator?

Recognising an area as homelands or traditional country is an important part of the aspiration for home.

The proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who recognise an area as homelands or traditional country is considered a good measure of progress for belonging because it measures an important aspect of belonging - the idea of feeling connected to a particular area or place. Homelands give Aboriginal people a sense of 'home' and a sense of belonging and bring communities together, through being able to contribute to their cultural responsibilities of caring for their country. The recognition of homelands or traditional country also encompasses those who don't live in those places, highlighting the fact that a person may not live in a place where they feel a sense of belonging. For these people and a great many others, belonging may include places where they are currently, as well as other places in their heart.

There is currently no equivalent indicator for the broader Australian community.

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is a partial measure of belonging.



The data source is of high quality.

Let's break it down!

Young adults were least likely to recognise their homeland in 2008 but this was also true in 1994. One of the significant changes between 1994 and 2008 was that in 2008, 61% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15-24 recognised an area as their homeland, a significantly lower proportion than 1994 of 68%. During this time, none of the age groups above 25 years of age recorded significant decreases in the proportion of people who recognised an area as their homeland or traditional country.

Recognition of homeland is not restricted to those people who live on their homeland. The majority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who recognise land as their homeland or traditional country did not currently live on that land in 1994 (61%). This measure remained the case in 2008, where of the majority of people who recognised an area as their homeland or traditional country, just under two thirds did not live in that area (65%).

Use the drop down menu on the graph to look at other breakdowns of the indicator (graphs are also available on the further info page).

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to home than belonging. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of home have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.



Further info for home

Need some more info on the home theme? Hopefully this page can point you in the right direction

Contents

Useful links

Glossary

References

Graph summary

This page contains the following further information for home:

- Useful links
- Glossary
- References
- Graph summary

USEFUL LINKS

ABS Topics @ a glance - Housing and Homelessness

ABS Census of Population and Housing: Estimating homelessness, 2011 (cat. no. 2049.0)

ABS Housing Occupancy and Costs, 2011-12 (cat. no. 4130.0)

ABS Information Paper - A Statistical Definition of Homelessness, 2012 (cat. no. 4922.0)

ABS Household Income and Income Distribution, Australia, 2009-10 (cat. no. 6523.0)

ABS Household Income and Income Distribution, Australia, 2011-12 (cat. no. 6523.0)

ABS Household Expenditure Survey and Survey of Income and Housing, User Guide, Australia, 2009-10 (cat. no. 6503.0)

ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey, 1994 (cat no 4190.0)

ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2002 and 2008 (cat. no. 4714.0)

COAG National Affordable Housing Agreement <<http://www.federalfinancialrelations.gov.au/>>

GLOSSARY

Canadian National Occupancy Standard (CNOS) for housing appropriateness

A standard measure of housing utilisation that is sensitive to both household size and composition.

Based on the following criteria used to assess bedroom requirements, household requiring at least one additional bedroom are considered to be overcrowded:

- there should be no more than two persons per bedroom;
- a household of one unattached individual may reasonably occupy a bed-sit (i.e. have no bedroom);
- couples and parents should have a separate bedroom;
- children less than five years of age, of different sexes, may reasonably share a bedroom;
- children five years of age or over, of different sexes, should not share a bedroom; and
- single household members aged 18 years or over should have a separate bedroom.

See also 'Overcrowding'.

Census

The Australian Census of Population and Housing is an official count of population and dwellings within Australia that takes place every five years (latest is 2011). It collects basic demographic details such as age, sex and other characteristics of that population.

Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA)

Where applicable, Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA) has been excluded from housing costs and gross income of recipients. CRA is a non-taxable income supplement paid through Centrelink to individuals and families who rent in the private rental market. It is only paid to recipients of another government benefit or pension, and is paid in conjunction with that other benefit.

Disposable income

Gross income less income tax, the Medicare levy and the Medicare levy surcharge i.e. remaining income after taxes are deducted, which is available to support consumption and /or saving. Income tax, Medicare levy and the Medicare levy surcharge are imputed based on each person's income and other characteristics as reported in the survey. Disposable income is sometimes referred to as net income.

Dwelling

Defined as a suite of rooms contained within a building which are self-contained and intended for long-term residential use. To be self contained the suite of rooms must possess cooking and bathing facilities as building fixtures. Examples of types of dwellings include: separate house; semi-detached, row or terrace house or townhouse; flat; unit or apartment; and other dwelling, including caravan, cabin, houseboat, and house or flat attached to a shop.

Equivalised disposable household income

Disposable income adjusted using an equivalence scale. For a lone person household it is equal to disposable household income. For a household comprising more than one person, it is an indicator of the disposable household income that would need to be received by a lone person household to enjoy the same level of economic wellbeing as the household in question. For further information see ABS Survey of Income and Housing, User Guide, Australia, 2011-12.

Homelessness

In accordance with the ABS statistical definition, when a person does not have suitable accommodation alternatives they are considered homeless if their current living arrangement:

- is in a dwelling that is inadequate, or
- has no tenure, or if initial tenure is short and not extendable, or
- does not allow them to have control of, and access to space for social relations.

Housing costs

Housing costs may include rent payments and rates payments (general and water) less CRA.

Housing costs as a proportion of income

The total weekly housing costs (excluding CRA) of a group are divided by the total weekly income (excluding CRA) of that group, and expressed as a percentage. Households with nil or negative total income are not included in this calculation.

Housing utilisation

Provides a measure of the bedroom requirements of a household according to household size and composition.

Low income rental affordability

Housing costs (excluding CRA) as a proportion of gross household income (excluding CRA) for low income renters.

Low income renters

Low income renter households are defined as the 40% of households with equivalised disposable household income (excluding CRA) at or below the 40th percentile, calculated for capital city and balance of state, on a state-by-state basis. See also 'Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA)'.

Overcrowding

Households requiring one or more extra bedrooms under the Canadian National Occupancy Standard.

See also 'Canadian National Occupancy Standard (CNOS)'.

Private renter

A household paying rent to any landlord other than a state or territory housing authority/trust (i.e. renting from a real estate agent, a parent or other relative not in the same household or another person not in the same household).

Public renter

A household paying rent to a state or territory housing authority/trust.

Quintiles

Groupings that result from ranking all households or people in the population in ascending order according to some characteristic, such as their household income, and then dividing the population into five equal groups, each comprising 20% of the estimated population. In this publication the quintiles are formed by ranking people by their equivalised disposable household income.

Tenure type

The nature of a unit's (i.e. household's, income unit's or person's, where applicable) legal right to occupy the dwelling in which the unit members usually reside. Tenure is determined according to whether the household owns the dwelling outright, owns the dwelling but has a mortgage or loan secured against it, is paying rent to live in the dwelling or has some other arrangement to occupy the dwelling.

REFERENCES

Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2012, Information Paper: A Statistical Definition of Homelessness (cat. no. 4922.0)

Click on the links below to be taken to a summary of the graphs from the corresponding tab within the Home theme:

Overall progress?

Adequate housing

Affordable housing

Tenure

Belonging

OVERALL PROGRESS?

Homelessness rate per 10,000 population(a)

Headline progress indicator

...by sex



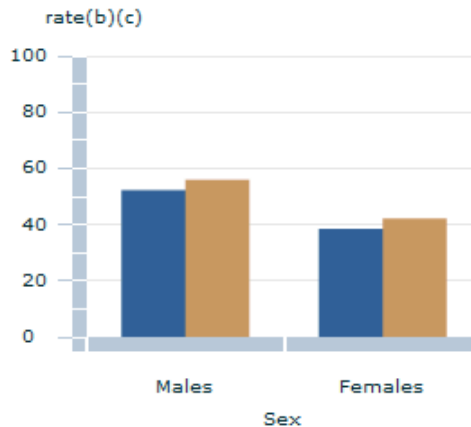
Footnote:

(a) Based on ABS statistical definition of homelessness.

(b) Rates are based on the census count of persons (based on place of usual residence, excluding usual residents of external territories, at sea, migratory and offshore regions).

Source:

ABS Census of Population and Housing: Estimating homelessness, 2011 (cat. no. 2049.0)



■ Census night 2006

■ Census night 2011

Footnote:

(a) Based on ABS statistical definition of homelessness.

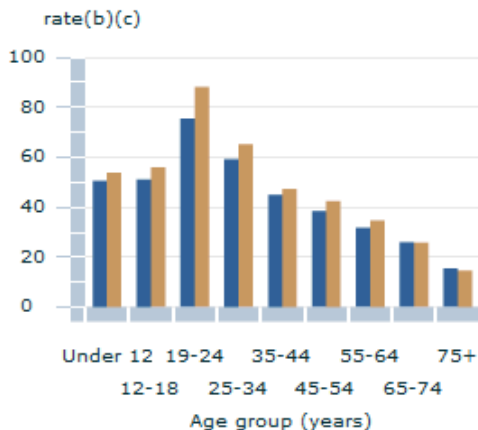
(b) Rates are based on the census count of persons (based on place of usual residence, excluding usual residents of external territories, at sea, migratory and offshore regions).

(c) Data is not available for 2001.

Source:

ABS Census of Population and Housing: Estimating homelessness, 2011 (cat. no. 2049.0)

...by age



■ Census night 2006

■ Census night 2011

Footnote:

(a) Based on ABS statistical definition of homelessness.

(b) Rates are based on the census count of persons (based on place of usual residence, excluding usual residents of external territories, at sea, migratory and offshore regions).

(c) Data is not available for 2001.

Source:

ABS Census of Population and Housing: Estimating homelessness, 2011 (cat. no. 2049.0)

...by state and territory (excl. NT)



■ Census night 2001

■ Census night 2006

■ Census night 2011

Footnote:

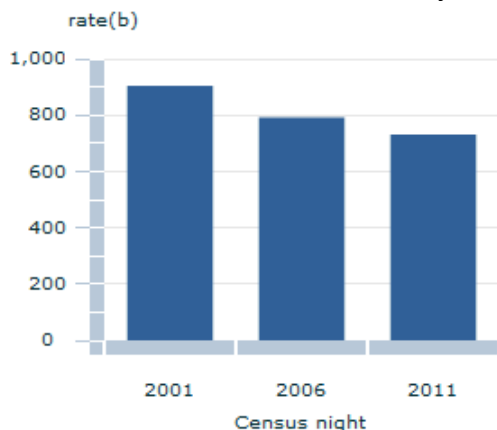
(a) Based on ABS statistical definition of homelessness.

(b) Rates are based on the census count of persons (based on place of usual residence, excluding usual residents of external territories, at sea, migratory and offshore regions).

Source:

ABS Census of Population and Housing: Estimating homelessness, 2011 (cat. no. 2049.0)

...for the Northern Territory



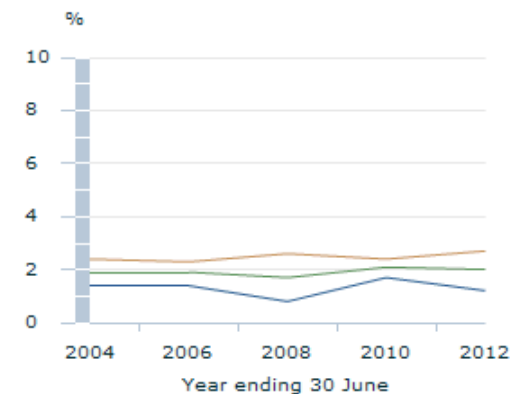
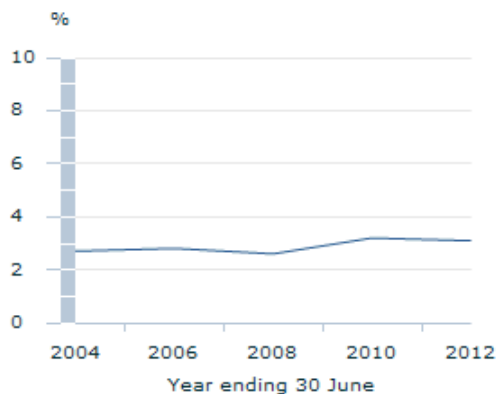
Footnote:

(a) Based on ABS statistical definition of homelessness.
 (b) Rates are based on the census count of persons (based on place of usual residence, excluding usual residents of external territories, at sea, migratory and offshore regions).
 Source:
 ABS Census of Population and Housing: Estimating homelessness, 2011 (cat. no. 2049.0)

[Back to top](#)

ADEQUATE HOUSING

Households living in overcrowded conditions(a) Progress indicator(b) ...for owner households

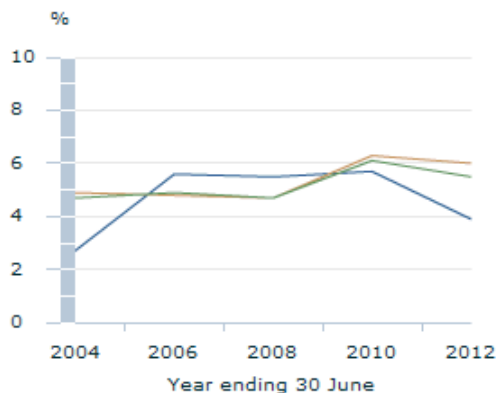


Footnote:
 (a) Overcrowded conditions are defined as households requiring one or more extra bedrooms under the Canadian National Occupancy Standard.
 (b) Includes other tenure type, which accounted for about 2% of all households in 2011–12.
 Source:
 ABS data available on request, Surveys of Income and Housing

Owner without mortgage
 Owner with mortgage
 Total owners

Footnote:
 (a) Overcrowded conditions are defined as households requiring one or more extra bedrooms under the Canadian National Occupancy Standard.
 Source:
 ABS data available on request, Surveys of Income and Housing

...for renter households



Public renter
 Private renter
 Total renters(b)

Footnote:
 (a) Overcrowded conditions are defined as households requiring one or more extra bedrooms under the Canadian National Occupancy Standard.
 (b) Includes other landlord type, which accounted for about 4% of all renters in 2011–12.
 Source:
 ABS data available on request, Surveys of Income and Housing

[Back to top](#)

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Rental costs(a) as a proportion of household income(b)(c) for low income rental households(d)(e)(f)

Progress indicator



Footnote:

(a) Rental costs is amount paid in rent plus general and water rates paid by the household less Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA).

(b) Household income is gross household income excluding CRA.

(c) Excludes households with nil or negative household income.

(d) Estimates presented from 2007-08 onwards are not directly comparable with estimates for previous cycles due to improvements made to measuring income introduced in the 2007-08 cycle. Estimates for 2003-04 and 2005-06 have been recompiled to reflect the new treatments of income, however not all new components introduced in 2007-08 are available for earlier cycles.

(e) Low income households are those in the bottom two quintiles of equivalised disposable household income excluding CRA.

(f) Includes other landlord type, which accounted for about 4% of all renters in 2011-12.

Source:

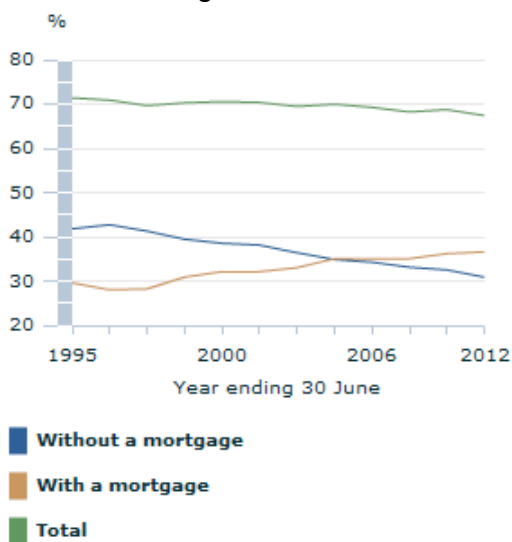
ABS data available on request, Surveys of Income and Housing

[Back to top](#)

TENURE

Households that own their own home

Progress indicator



Source:

ABS data available on request, Surveys of Income and Housing

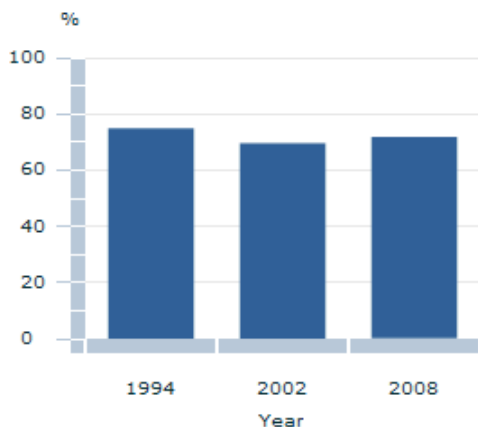
[Back to top](#)

BELONGING

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people who recognise an area as homelands or traditional country(a)

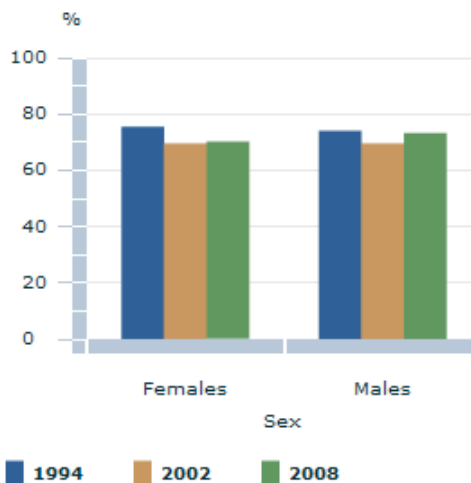
Progress indicator

...by sex



Footnote:
(a) People aged 15 years and over.

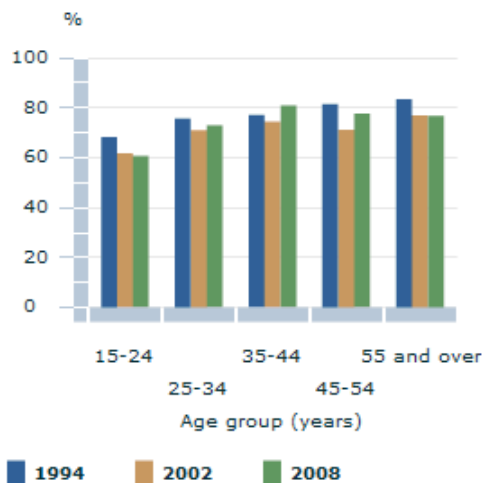
Source:
ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey, 1994 (cat no 4190.0)
ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2002 and 2008 (cat. no. 4714.0)



Footnote:
(a) People aged 15 years and over.

Source:
ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey, 1994 (cat no 4190.0)
ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2002 and 2008 (cat. no. 4714.0)

...by age



Footnote:
(a) People aged 15 years and over.

Source:
ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey, 1994 (cat no 4190.0)
ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2002 and 2008 (cat. no. 4714.0)

...by remoteness



Footnote:
(a) People aged 15 years and over.

Source:
ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey, 1994 (cat no 4190.0)
ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2002 and 2008 (cat. no. 4714.0)

[Back to top](#)



Safety

Australians aspire to a society where people are safe and feel safe

Overall progress? **Overall progress?**

Crime **Crime**

Safe environments **Environments**

Safety regulations and systems **Regulations**

Refuge **Refuge**

Feelings of safety **Feelings**

Physical assault victimisation rate



Victimisation rate

Headline progress indicator ▼

Source ABS Crime Victimization, Australia, 2012-13 (cat no. 4530.0)

Source(s): ABS Crime Victimization, Australia, 2012-13 (cat no. 4530.0); ABS Crime Victimization, Australia, 2012-13 (cat no. 4530.0)

 **Safety in Australia has progressed in recent years**

Indicator: Physical assault victimisation rate

Why is this theme important?

Australians told us that it is important to be safe and free from physical and emotional violence, danger and harassment in their relationships, in public, while at work or in other areas of their life. People thought that this could be achieved by reducing crime, and through urban planning, workplace regulations, policing and justice systems, safe housing and other mechanisms that ensure public safety. As well as being safe, the consultation revealed that people need to feel safe in order to function well in their lives and to have places where they can take shelter if they are not safe.

Why has there been progress?

Safety in Australia has progressed because the victimisation rate for physical assault (our headline progress indicator for safety) was lower in 2012-13 than in 2008-09.

In 2008-09, the proportion of people who were victims of physical assault was 3.1%, while in 2012-13, the proportion was 2.7%. This corresponds to an estimated 527,400 victims of physical assault in Australia in 2008-09, compared to an estimated 498,000 victims in 2012-13.

Why this headline progress indicator?

Personal safety is an important part of the aspiration for safety.

The victimisation rate for physical assault is considered a good measure of progress for safety. This is because, second to face-to-face threatened assault, it is the most prevalent type of offence against a person experienced in Australia and can have far-reaching consequences. Crimes committed against individuals can impact directly on the physical, financial and emotional wellbeing of the victim, as well as indirectly on the people around them. However, we recognise that personal safety is only one dimension of safety.

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is a partial measure of the concept of safety as described above (based on Aspirations for our Nation).



The data source is of high quality.

Let's break it down!

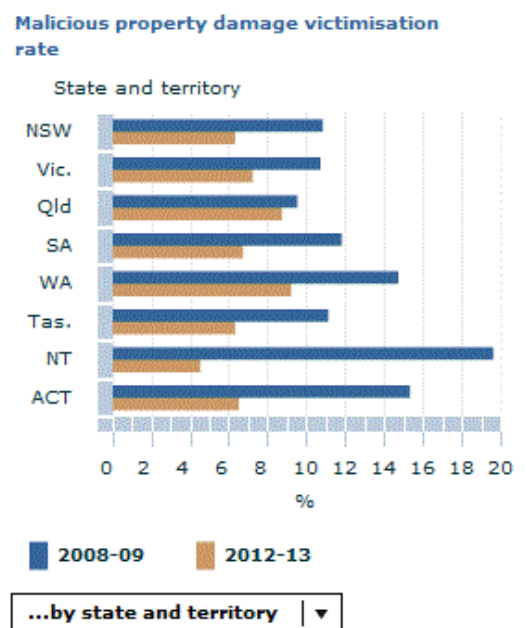
Victimisation rates for physical assault in Tasmania were significantly lower in 2012-13 than in 2008-09. In 2008-09, the proportion of people who were victims of physical assault in Tasmania was 4.1%, while in 2012-13, the proportion was 2.6%. There was no significant difference for other states and territories in the same time frame.

Use the drop down menu on the graph to look at other breakdowns of the indicator (graphs are also available on the further info page).

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to safety than the victimisation rate for physical assault. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of safety have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.



Source ABS Crime Victimisation, Australia, 2012-13 (cat no. 4530.0)

Source(s): ABS Crime Victimisation, Australia, 2012-13 (cat no. 4530.0); ABS Crime Victimisation, Australia, 2012-13 (cat no. 4530.0)

There has been progress in the reduction of crime at the national level in recent years, when measured

by changes in the prevalence of malicious property damage.

Indicator: Malicious property damage victimisation rate

Why is this element important?

Crime takes many forms and can have a major impact on the wellbeing of victims, their families and friends, and the wider community. Those most directly affected may suffer financially, physically, psychologically or emotionally. Household crimes may affect an individual or family's feelings of safety or security and may result in property damage and/or financial loss.

Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about safety.

Why has there been progress?

Crime in Australia has progressed in recent years because the victimisation rate for malicious property damage, our progress indicator for crime, was lower in 2012-13 than in 2008-09.

In 2008-09, the proportion of households that were victims of malicious property damage was 11.1%, while in 2012-13, the proportion was 6.3%. This corresponds to an estimated 912,500 Australian households that experienced malicious property damage in 2008-09 compared to 555,900 Australian households in 2012-13,

Why this progress indicator?

Safety of personal property is an important part of the aspiration for safety.

Malicious property damage is the most prevalent type of household crime experienced in Australia. The victimisation rate for malicious property damage is considered a good measure of progress for crime because it is one of the aspects of crime that shows change over time.

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is a partial measure of crime.



The data source is of high quality.

Let's break it down!

Victimisation rates for malicious property damage were significantly lower across all states and territories in 2012-13 compared with 2008-09.

Use the drop down menu on the graph to look at other breakdowns of the indicator (graphs are also available on the further info page).

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to safety than crime. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of safety have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

A data gap currently exists for safe environments

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

We propose to use a social disorder measure as a progress indicator for the safe environments element in the future, when sufficient data becomes available for us to assess whether progress has been made.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to safety than safe environments. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of safety have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

A data gap currently exists for safety regulations and systems

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

At the moment we are considering this element to be the second type of data gap listed above, i.e. although the concept is important for progress, it may not lend itself to meaningful measurement. This being the case, while we will continue to consider this area of progress there is no guarantee that we will have a progress indicator for it in the future.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to safety than safety regulations and systems. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of safety have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

A data gap currently exists for refuge

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

In order to capture the spirit of this idea in a measure, further development will need to be undertaken. We will continue to explore options for a suitable indicator in the future.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to safety than refuge. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of safety have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

A data gap currently exists for feelings of safety

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

We propose to use the proportion of people who feel safe at home alone during the day, at home alone after dark and walking in the local area alone after dark, as a progress indicator for the feelings of safety element in the future, when sufficient data becomes available for us to assess whether progress has

been made.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to safety than feelings of safety. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of safety have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

This page first published 9 May 2014



Further info for safety

Need some more info on the safety theme? Hopefully this page can point you in the right direction

Contents

Useful links

Glossary

References

Graph summary

This page contains the following further information for safety:

- Useful links
- Glossary
- References
- Graph summary

USEFUL LINKS

ABS Topics @ a Glance - Crime and Justice

ABS General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia, 2010 (cat. no 4159.0)

ABS In Focus: Crime and Justice Statistics, July 2012 (cat. no 4524.0)

ABS Crime Victimization, Australia, 2012-13 (cat. no 4530.0)

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) - Specialist Homelessness Services, 2011-12 <<http://www.aihw.gov.au>>

GLOSSARY

Malicious property damage

Intentional or wilful (not accidental) damage, defacement or destruction of any part of the respondent's home or anything usually kept at the home. Excludes any rental, investment or holiday properties owned by a member of the household. Property is something tangible in nature, including land, conveyances, animals or other objects capable of being privately owned. Destruction can mean any alteration that may render something imperfect or inoperative. It can include destruction of property, graffiti or vandalism, partial destruction, killing or harming an owned animal and removing or destroying a plant or other part of an owned landscape. Excludes acts such as turning off water meters and flicking safety switches if no damage to the meter occurred.

Physical assault

An act of physical force or violence by the offender/s against the victim. Examples of physical force or violence include being beaten, pushed, grabbed, shoved, slapped, hit with an open hand or fist, kicked, bitten, choked, stabbed, shot, burnt, being hit with something such as a bat or being dragged or hit deliberately by a vehicle. Includes assault which may happen in the line of work. Excludes incidents that occurred during the course of play on a sporting field or organised sport, verbal abuse, incidents where the person did not encounter the offender face-to-face and incidents of sexual assault or threatened sexual assault which also involved physical assault.

Reporting rate

The total number of victims who reported the most recent incident they experienced of that type of crime to police expressed as a percentage of victims. Includes incidents where the victim did not report the incident themselves, but were aware of another person that did.

Statistical Significance

A statistical significance test for a comparison between estimates is performed to determine whether it is likely that there is a statistically significant (or real) difference between the corresponding population

characteristics. If the value of the test statistic is greater than 1.96 then there is a evidence, with a 95% level of confidence, of a statistically significant difference in the two populations with respect to that characteristic. Otherwise, it cannot be stated with confidence that there is a real difference between the populations with respect to that characteristic.

Victim

A victim is a person or household who has experienced as least one incident of a selected type of crime within the last 12 months. A victim may experience more than one incident of a type of crime, but is only counted once for each crime experienced.

Victimisation rate

The total number of victims of a crime in a given population expressed as a percentage of that population.

There are no references for this theme

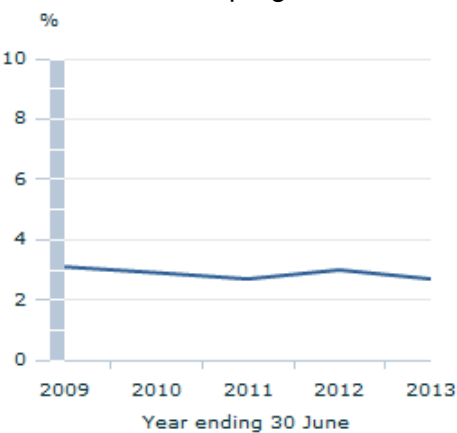
Click on the links below to be taken to a summary of the graphs from the corresponding tab within the Safety theme:

Overall progress?
Crime

OVERALL PROGRESS?

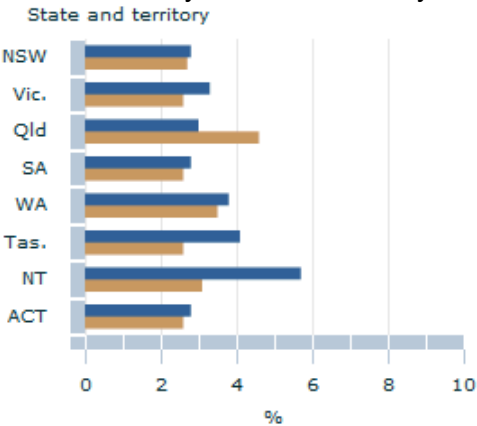
Physical assault victimisation rate

Headline progress indicator



Source:
ABS Crime Victimisation, Australia, 2012-13 (cat no. 4530.0)

...by state and territory



Source:
ABS Crime Victimisation, Australia, 2012-13 (cat no. 4530.0)

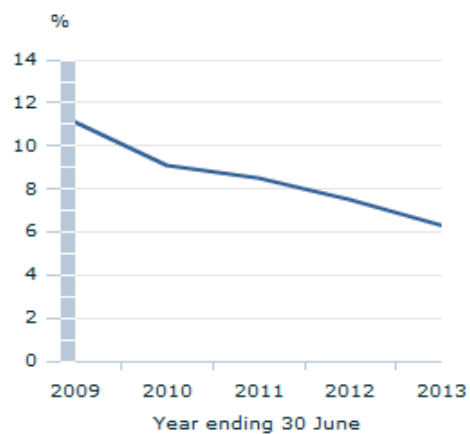
[Back to top](#)

CRIME

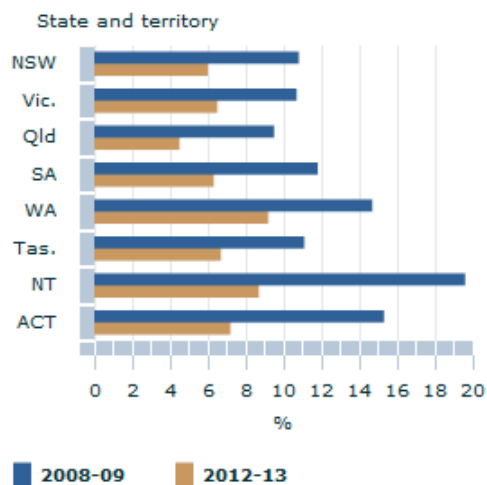
Malicious property damage victimisation rate

Progress indicator

...by state and territory



Source:
ABS Crime Victimization, Australia, 2012-13 (cat no. 4530.0)



Source:
ABS Crime Victimization, Australia, 2012-13 (cat no. 4530.0)

[Back to top](#)



Learning and knowledge

Australians aspire to a society that values and enables learning

Overall progress? **Overall progress?**

Early learning **Early**

Schooling **Schooling**

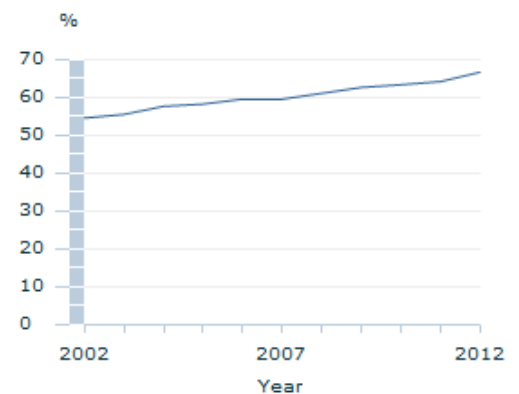
Further education **Education**

Lifelong learning and Life skills **Learning and Skills**

Research **Research**

Inter-generational learning **Generational**

Persons aged 25-64 years with a vocational or higher education qualification(a)



Persons

Headline progress indicator ▼

Footnote (a) Includes level not determined.

Source ABS data on request, 2002-2011 Survey of Education and Work; ABS data on request, 2012 Survey of Education and Work

Footnote(s): (a) Includes level not determined.;(a) Data based on level of highest non-school qualification. (b) People with a higher education qualification may also have a vocational qualification. (c) Includes, Doctoral degree, Master degree, Graduate diploma, Graduate certificate and Bachelor degree. (d) Includes, Advanced diploma, Diploma and Certificates I to IV.;(a) Includes level not determined.

Source(s): ABS data on request, 2002-2011 Survey of Education and Work. ; ABS data on request, 2012 Survey of Education and Work; ABS data on request, 2012 Survey of Education and Work



Learning and knowledge in Australia has progressed over the last decade

Indicator: Proportion of people aged 25-64 years with a vocational or higher education qualification

Why is this theme important?

Australians told us that learning, gaining knowledge and developing skills are important throughout people's lives. Children's development from infancy through schooling and into higher education and training is considered to be important to both individuals wellbeing, and to society overall. Society benefits from the increase in people's knowledge and abilities through increased productivity, innovation

and cultural identity. Basic life skills, such as literacy and numeracy, are also vital to wellbeing and to full participation in society. People also felt it is important for society to support ongoing learning, whether for research, re-training or for personal development, and to support the creation of knowledge through scientific inquiry. Inter-generational learning or the knowledge that is passed down from one generation to another provides crucial links across generations and helps contribute to the cultural fabric and strength of Australian society.

How have we decided there has been progress?

We have decided that learning and knowledge in Australia has progressed since 2002 because the proportion of people aged 25-64 years with a vocational or higher education qualification (our headline progress indicator for learning and knowledge) has increased.

Between 2002 and 2012, the proportion of people aged 25-64 years with a vocational or higher education qualification rose from 54% (5.5 million) to 67% (7.8 million).

This increase was largely driven by the rise in the proportion of people with a higher education qualification (i.e. a bachelor degree or above), rising from 20% in 2002 to 30% in 2012. The proportion of people with a vocational qualification as their highest qualification increased at a much slower pace, rising from 33% in 2002 to 35% in 2012.

Why this headline progress indicator?

Vocational and higher education is an important part of the aspiration for learning and knowledge.

The proportion of people aged 25-64 years with a vocational or higher education qualification is considered a good measure of progress for learning and knowledge because it reflects the affect of learning and knowledge on individuals and society. Vocational and higher education helps people to develop knowledge and skills that may be used to enhance their own wellbeing and that of the broader community. For an individual, education is widely regarded as a key factor in developing a rewarding career. For the nation, a skilled workforce supports ongoing economic development and improves living conditions.

Quality assessment (see key)



This indicator is a partial measure of the concepts of learning and knowledge as described above (based on Aspirations for our Nation).



The data source is of high quality.

Let's break it down!

The proportion of women aged 25-64 years with a vocational or higher education qualification increased significantly more than men aged 25-64 years with a vocational or higher education qualification, with the proportion of women increasing from 50% (2.5 million) in 2002 to 65% (3.8 million) in 2012. Whereas, the proportion of men aged 25-64 years with a vocational or higher education qualification increased from 59% (3 million) in 2002 to 68% (4 million) in 2012.

Use the drop down menu on the graph to look at other breakdowns of the indicator (graphs are also available on the further info page).

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to learning and knowledge than the proportion of people aged 25-64 years with a vocational or higher education qualification. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of learning and knowledge have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

A data gap currently exists for early learning

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

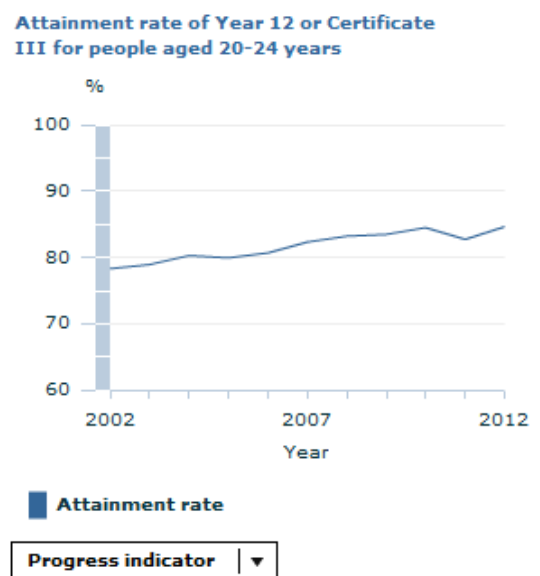
1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

We propose to use the number of 4 and 5 year olds enrolled in a full-time preschool program in the year before schooling as a progress indicator for early learning in the future, when sufficient data becomes available for us to assess whether progress has been made.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to learning and knowledge than early learning. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of learning and knowledge have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.



Source ABS Education and Work, Australia - Additional data cubes, May 2012 (cat. no. 6227.0.55.003)

Source(s): ABS Education and Work, Australia - Additional data cubes, May 2012 (cat. no. 6227.0.55.003); ABS Education and Work, Australia - Additional data cubes, May 2012 (cat. no. 6227.0.55.003)

Schooling in Australia has progressed over the last decade

Indicator: Attainment rate of Year 12 or Certificate III qualification for people aged 20-24 years

Why is this element important?

Schooling is a significant part of formal education and together with early learning and vocational and higher education, contributes to individual and societal wellbeing.

Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about learning and knowledge.

How have we decided there has been progress?

We have decided that schooling in Australia has progressed since 2002 because the attainment rate of Year 12 or Certificate III qualification for people aged 20-24 years (our progress indicator for schooling) has increased.

Between 2002 and 2012, the proportion of people aged 20-24 years with a Year 12 or Certificate III rose from 78% (1.1 million) to 85% (1.4 million).

Why this progress indicator?

The completion of Year 12 or equivalent qualification is an important part of the aspiration of learning and knowledge.

The attainment rate of Year 12 or Certificate III qualification for people aged 20-24 years is considered a good measure of progress for schooling because schooling provides a foundation level of education for entry into higher education or more skilled professions. Some people may not attain Year 12 at school but will subsequently obtain an equivalent level of education.

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is a direct measure of schooling



The data source is of high quality

Let's break it down!

Between 2002 and 2012, the proportion of people aged 20-24 years with a Year 12 or Certificate III qualification increased across both sexes, from 77% (536,300) to 83% (692,200) for men, and 80% (541,800) to 86% (693,200) for women.

All states and territories saw increases in the proportion of people aged 20-24 years with Year 12 or a Certificate III qualification, except in the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory.

Use the drop down menu on the graph to look at other breakdowns of the indicator (graphs are also available on the further info page).

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to learning and knowledge than schooling. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of learning and knowledge have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

Further education in Australia has progressed over the last decade

Indicator: Proportion of people aged 25-64 years with a vocational or higher education qualification

Why is this element important?

Further education is a significant part of the formal education pathway and together with early learning and schooling, contributes to individual and societal wellbeing.

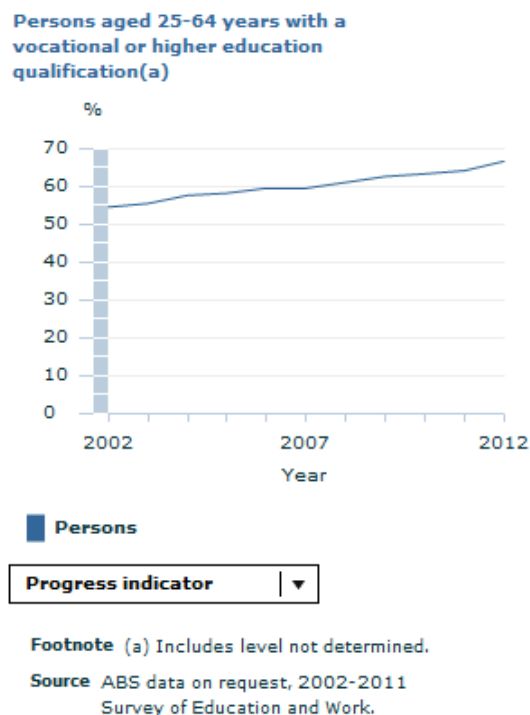
Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about learning and knowledge.

How have we decided there has been progress?

We have decided that further education in Australia has progressed since 2002 because the proportion of people aged 25-64 years with a vocational or higher education qualification (our progress indicator for further education) has increased.

Between 2002 and 2012, the proportion of people aged 25-64 years with a vocational or higher education qualification rose from 54% (5.5 million) to 67% (7.8 million).

This increase was largely driven by the rise in the proportion of people with a higher education qualification (i.e. a bachelor degree or above), rising from 20% in 2002 to 30% in 2012. The proportion of people with a vocational qualification as their highest qualification increased at a much slower pace,



Footnote(s): (a) Includes level not determined.;(a) Data based on level of highest non-school qualification. (b) People with a higher education qualification may also have a vocational qualification. (c) Includes, Doctoral degree, Master degree, Graduate diploma, Graduate certificate and Bachelor degree. (d) Includes, Advanced diploma, Diploma and Certificates I to IV.;(a) Includes level not determined.

Source(s): ABS data on request, 2002-2011 Survey of Education and Work. ; ABS data on request, 2012 Survey of Education and Work; ABS data on request, 2012 Survey of Education and Work
rising from 33% in 2002 to 35% in 2012.

Why this progress indicator?

Further education is an important part of the aspiration for learning and knowledge.

The proportion of people aged 25-64 years with a vocational or higher education qualification is considered a good measure of progress for further education because an increase in the attainment of this level of education is linked to better outcomes for individuals and society.

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is a direct measure of further education.



The data source is of high quality.

Let's break it down!

The proportion of women aged 25-64 years with a vocational or higher education qualification increased significantly more than men aged 25-64 years with a vocational or higher education qualification, with the proportion of women increasing from 50% (2.5 million) in 2002 to 65% (3.8 million) in 2012. Whereas, the proportion of men aged 25-64 years with a vocational or higher education qualification increased from 59% (3 million) in 2002 to 68% (4 million) in 2012.

Use the drop down menu on the graph to look at other breakdowns of the indicator (graphs are also available on the further info page).

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to learning and knowledge than further education. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of learning and knowledge have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

A data gap currently exists for lifelong learning

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

We propose to use participation rates in formal and non-formal learning as a progress indicator for the lifelong learning element in the future, when sufficient data becomes available for us to assess whether progress has been made.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to learning and knowledge than lifelong learning. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of learning and knowledge have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

A data gap currently exists for life skills

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

We propose to use literacy and numeracy rates for people aged 15-74 years as a progress indicator for the life skills element in the future, when sufficient data becomes available for us to assess whether progress has been made.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to learning and knowledge than life skills. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of learning and knowledge have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

Research in Australia has progressed since 1992

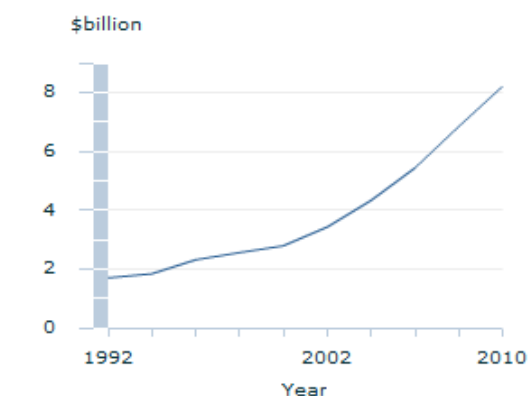
Indicator: Expenditure on research and development for higher education organisations

Why is this element important?

It is important for society to support ongoing learning, whether for research, re-training or for personal development, and to support the creation of knowledge through research. Progress in the area of research, knowledge and innovation contributes in a critical way to the economic, social and environmental progress of a society.

Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about learning and knowledge.

Expenditure on Research & Development for higher education organisations



■ Expenditure

Progress indicator ▼

Source: ABS Research and Experimental Development, Higher Education Organisations, Australia, 2010 (cat. no. 8111.0)

Source(s): ABS Research and Experimental Development, Higher Education Organisations, Australia, 2010 (cat. no. 8111.0); ABS Research and Experimental Development, Higher Education Organisations, Australia, 2010 (cat. no. 8111.0); ABS Research and Experimental Development, Higher Education Organisations, Australia, 2010 (cat. no. 8111.0)

How have we decided there has been progress?

We have decided research in Australia has progressed since 1992 because the amount of expenditure on research and development for higher education organisations (our progress indicator for research) has increased across all fields of research.

Between 1992 and 2010, the amount of expenditure on research and development for higher education organisations increased across all fields of research by 80% from \$1.7 billion to \$8.2 billion.

Why this progress indicator?

Research and development is seen as an important part of the aspiration for learning and knowledge.

The amount of expenditure on research and development for higher education organisations is a good measure of progress for research because increased activity in this area of research and development reflects positive outcomes of research.

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is a partial measure of research.



The data source is of high quality.

Let's break it down!

Between 1992 and 2010, the amount of expenditure on research and development for higher education organisations increased across all fields of research.

Expenditure devoted to Medical and health sciences, Engineering, Biological sciences and Studies in

human society, made up just over half of total higher education research and development expenditure in 2008 and 2010 (54% and 53% respectively).

Use the drop down menu on the graph to look at other breakdowns of the indicator (graphs are also available on the further info page).

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to learning and knowledge than research and development. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of learning and knowledge have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

A data gap currently exists for inter-generational learning

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

A range of possible indicators are being considered for inter-generational learning, such as 'reading to children'. In order to capture the spirit of this idea in a measure, further development will need to be undertaken. We will continue to explore options for a suitable indicator in the future.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to learning and knowledge than inter-generational learning. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of learning and knowledge have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.



Further info for learning and knowledge

Need some more info on the learning and knowledge theme? Hopefully this page can point you in the right direction

Contents

Useful links

Glossary

References

Graph summary

This page contains the following further information for learning and knowledge:

- Useful links
- Glossary
- References
- Graph summary

USEFUL LINKS

ABS Topics @ a Glance - Education and Training

ABS Survey of Education and Work Australia (cat. no. 6227.0)

ABS Survey of Education and Training (cat. no. 6278.0)

ABS Research and Experimental Development, Higher Education Organisations, Australia, 2010 (cat. no. 8111.0)

Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies

Council of Australian Governments (COAG)

Australian Early Development Index (AEDI)

The National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) <<http://www.nap.edu.au/>>

Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) <<http://www.oecd.org/>>

GLOSSARY

Applied research

Original work undertaken primarily to acquire new knowledge with a specific application in view. It is undertaken either to determine possible uses for the findings of basic research or to determine new ways of achieving some specific and predetermined objectives.

Educational institution

Any institution whose primary role is education. Included are schools, higher education establishments, colleges of technical and further education, public and private colleges. Excluded are institutions whose primary role is not education, for example, hospitals.

Episode of enrolment/attending a preschool program

An episode is the count of the occurrence of a specific characteristic. An episode refers to a preschool program provided to a child. When one child attends two different preschool programs, the child is attending two episodes of preschool.

Experimental development

Systematic work, using existing knowledge gained from research or practical experience, which is directed to producing new materials, products, devices, policies, behaviours or outlooks; to installing new processes, systems and services; or to improving substantially those already produced and installed.

Higher education

Education offered by a university or other higher education institution, leading toward the award of a

degree of higher level qualification.

Higher education qualifications

Includes Postgraduate Degree, Master Degree, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate and Bachelor Degree.

Formal Learning

Refers to learning that is structured, taught learning in institutions and organisations and leads to a nationally recognised qualification issued by a relevant body, in recognition that a person has achieved learning outcomes or competencies relevant to identified individual, professional, industry or community needs. A learning activity is formal if it leads to a learning achievement that is possible to position within the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) and includes workplace training if such training results in a qualification.

Level of highest educational attainment

Identifies the highest achievement a person has attained in any area of study. It is not a measurement of the relative importance of different fields of study but a ranking of qualifications and other educational attainments regardless of the particular area of study or the type of institution in which the study was undertaken.

Non-formal Learning

Refers to structured, taught learning, but differs from formal learning in that it does not lead to a qualification with the AQF. It includes non-accredited workplace training, that is, training that does not lead to a recognised qualification.

Some examples of types of non-formal courses include:

- Adult education courses (eg. introduction to computing);
- Hobby and recreation courses (eg. ceramics, jewellery making, dancing);
- Personal enrichment courses (eg. personal finance, sports instruction, public speaking);
- Work-related courses (eg. manager development, job search training, induction courses);
- First aid courses;
- Bridging courses; and
- Statements of attainment.

Non-school qualification

Non-school qualifications are awarded for educational attainments other than those of pre-primary, primary or secondary education. They include qualifications at the Postgraduate Degree level, Master Degree level, Graduate Diploma and Graduate Certificate level, Bachelor Degree level, Advanced Diploma and Diploma level, and Certificates I, II, III and IV levels. Non-school qualifications may be attained concurrently with school qualifications.

People with a vocational or higher education qualification

Proportion of people with either a vocational or higher education qualification (includes those whose level could not be determined).

Preschool program

For the purposes of the National ECEC Collection, is defined as a structured, play-based learning program, delivered by a degree qualified teacher, primarily aimed at children in the year before they commence full-time schooling. This is irrespective of the type of institution that provides it or whether it is government funded or privately provided.

Pure basic research

Experimental and theoretical work undertaken to acquire new knowledge without looking for long term

benefits other than the advancement of knowledge.

Qualification

Formal certification, issued by a relevant approved body, in recognition that a person has achieved an appropriate level of learning outcomes or competencies relevant to identified individual, professional, industry or community needs. Statements of attainment awarded for partial completion of a course of study at a particular level are excluded.

Strategic basic research

Experimental and theoretical work undertaken to acquire new knowledge directed into specific broad areas in the expectation of practical discoveries. It provides the broad base of knowledge necessary for the solution of recognised practical problems.

Vocational education training

Post-compulsory education and training, excluding degree and higher level programs delivered by higher education institutions, which provides people with occupational work-related knowledge and skills. Vocational education and training also included programs which provide the basis for subsequent vocational programs.

There are no references for this theme

Click on the links below to be taken to a summary of the graphs from the corresponding tab within the Learning and knowledge theme:

Overall progress?

Schooling

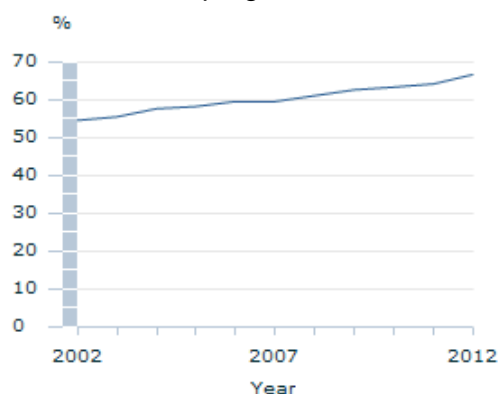
Further education

Research

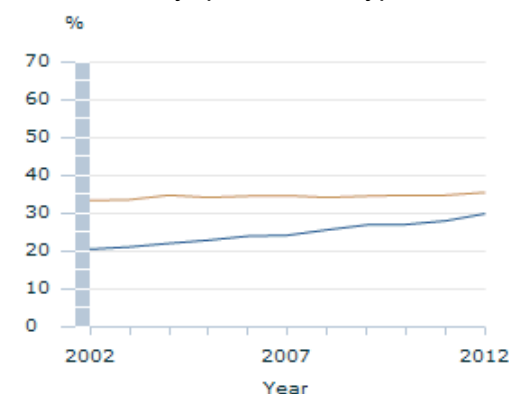
OVERALL PROGRESS?

Persons aged 25-64 years with a vocational or higher education qualification(a)

Headline progress indicator



...by qualification type



Footnote:

(a) Includes level not determined.

Source:

ABS data on request, 2012 Survey of Education and Work

■ Higher education qual.(b)(c)

■ Vocational qual. only(d)

Footnote:

(a) Data based on level of highest non-school qualification.

(b) People with a higher education qualification may also have a vocational qualification.

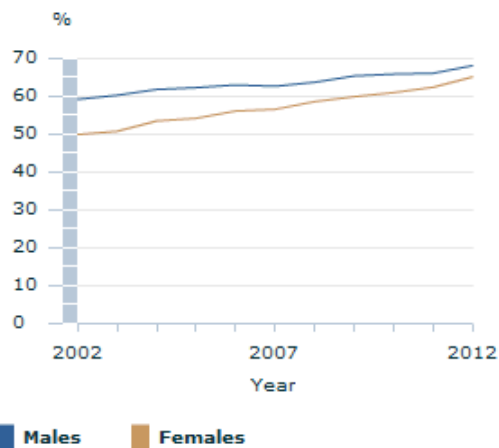
(c) Includes, Doctoral degree, Master degree, Graduate diploma, Graduate certificate and Bachelor degree.

(d) Includes, Advanced diploma, Diploma and Certificates I to IV.

Source:

ABS data on request, 2012 Survey of Education and Work

...by sex



Footnote:

(a) Includes level not determined.

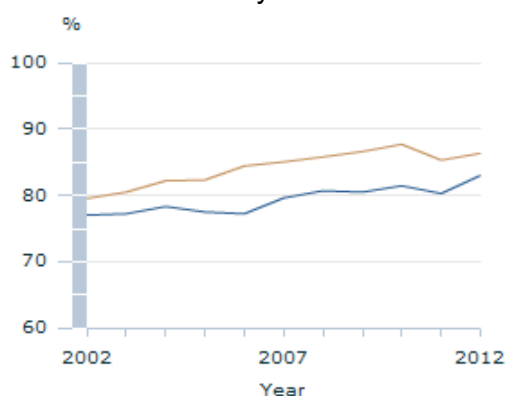
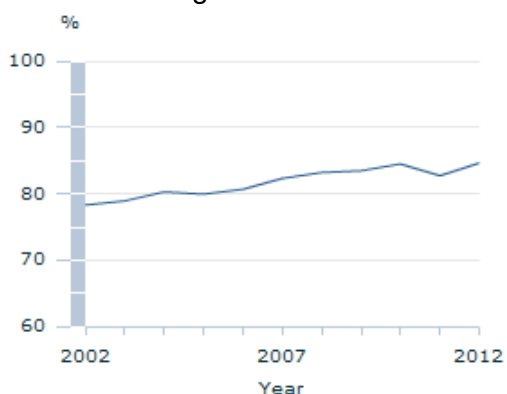
Source:

ABS data on request, 2012 Survey of Education and Work

[Back to top](#)

SCHOOLING

Attainment rate of Year 12 or Certificate III for people aged 20-24 years Progress indicator ...by sex



Source:

ABS Education and Work, Australia - Additional data cubes, May 2012
(cat. no. 6227.0.55.003)

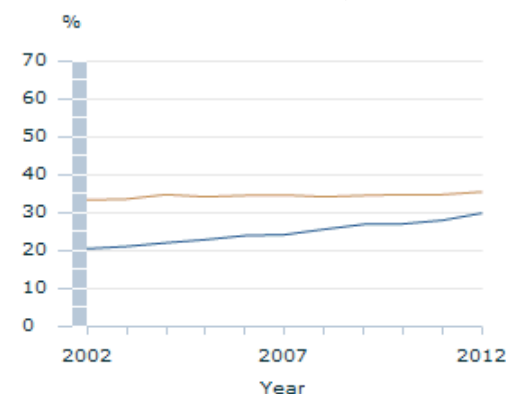
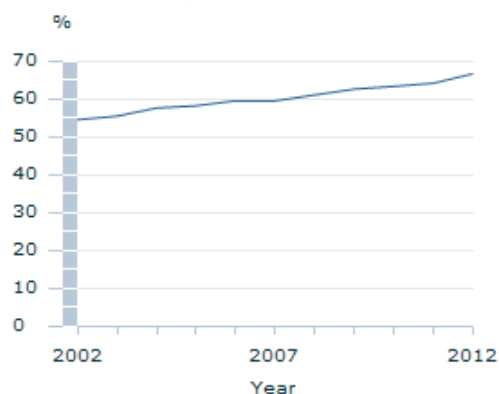
Source:

ABS Education and Work, Australia - Additional data cubes, May 2012
(cat. no. 6227.0.55.003)

[Back to top](#)

FURTHER EDUCATION

Persons aged 25-64 years with a vocational or higher education qualification(a) Progress indicator ...qualification type



Footnote:

(a) Includes level not determined.

Source:

ABS data on request, 2012 Survey of Education and Work

Footnote:

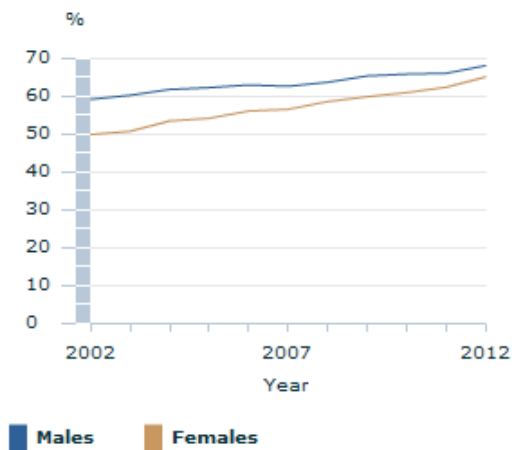
(a) Data based on level of highest non-school qualification.

(b) People with a higher education qualification may also have a vocational qualification.

(c) Includes, Doctoral degree, Master degree, Graduate diploma, Graduate

certificate and Bachelor degree.
(d) Includes, Advanced diploma, Diploma and Certificates I to IV.
Source:
ABS data on request, 2012 Survey of Education and Work

...by sex



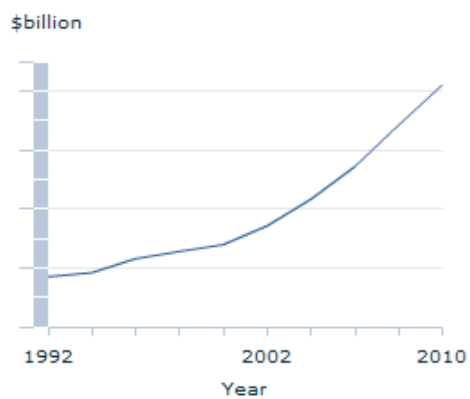
Footnote:
(a) Includes level not determined.
Source:
ABS data on request, 2012 Survey of Education and Work

[Back to top](#)

RESEARCH

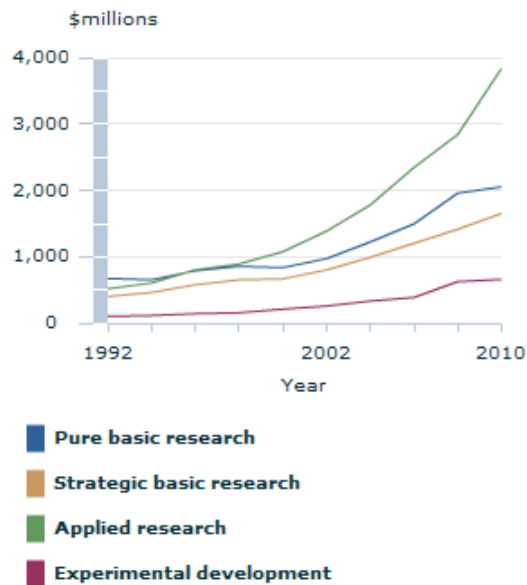
Expenditure on Research & Development for higher education organisations

Progress indicator



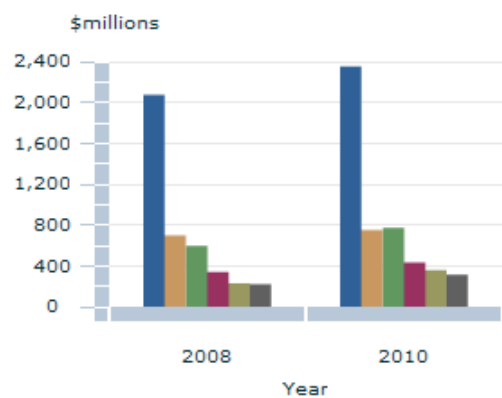
Source:
ABS Research and Experimental Development, Higher Education Organisations, Australia, 2010 (cat. no. 8111.0)

...by type of activity



Source:
ABS Research and Experimental Development, Higher Education Organisations, Australia, 2010 (cat. no. 8111.0)

...by selected fields of research



- Medical and health sciences
- Biological sciences
- Engineering
- Studies in human society
- Information and comp. sciences
- Education

Source:
 ABS Research and Experimental Development, Higher Education
 Organisations, Australia, 2010 (cat. no. 8111.0)

[Back to top](#)



Community connections and diversity

Australians aspire to support each other and embrace diversity

Overall progress? **Overall progress?**

Community relationships **Relationships**

Community support **Support**

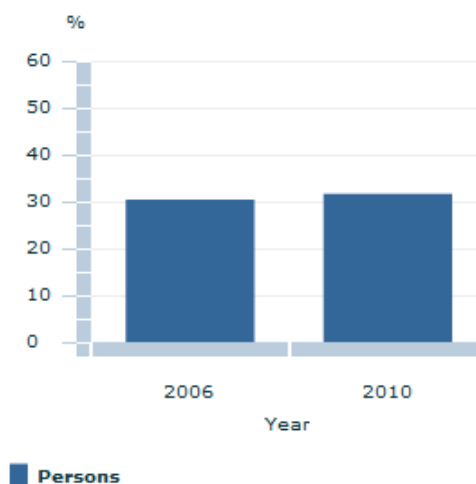
Respect for difference **Respect**

Cultural activity and participation **Cultural**

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures **Aboriginal**

Shared identity **Identity**

People who have had no involvement in social and community groups in the 12 months prior to being interviewed(a)



Headline progress indicator | ▼

Footnote (a) Persons aged 18 years and over.

Source ABS General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia 2006 & 2010 (cat. no. 4159.0)

Footnote(s): (a) Persons aged 18 years and over.;(a) Persons aged 18 years and over.;^ Estimates for 75-84 year age group in 2006 and 85 years and over age groups have relative standard errors of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution.

(a) Persons aged 18 years and over.;(a) Persons aged 18 years and over.

Source(s): ABS General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia 2006 & 2010 (cat. no. 4159.0); ABS General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia 2006 & 2010 (cat. no. 4159.0); ABS General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia 2006 & 2010 (cat. no. 4159.0); ABS General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia 2006 & 2010 (cat. no. 4159.0)



Community connections and diversity in Australia has not changed greatly in recent years

Indicator: The proportion of people who had no involvement in social and community groups in the 12 months prior to being interviewed

Why is this theme important?

Australians told us that it was important for individuals to feel connected with, contribute to, feel included in and valued by their community beyond their family and friends. An important aspect of this relationship was reciprocity, where people both give to and receive from the community. Connectedness was seen as something that can be built through quality interactions, for example through cultural activities, volunteering and services provided within the community. It can be evident in the shared

sense of identity that communities and Australians have. Diversity was also valued, and linked with our ability to be resilient and innovative. While people may not embrace the lifestyles of others, the respect for difference – whether cultural difference, social difference or one of the many other ways people differ from one another – was considered a basic Australian value. This idea of respect for difference included the value Australians place on Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures.

How have we decided things haven't changed greatly?

We have decided that there has been little change in community connections and diversity in Australia in recent years because the proportion of people aged 18 years and over who had no involvement in social and community groups in the 12 months prior to being interviewed (our headline progress indicator for community connections and diversity) hasn't moved much.

For progress, we would expect to see a decrease in this indicator.

Between 2006 and 2010, the proportion of people aged 18 years and over who had no involvement in social and community groups remained steady and just below a third of the population (30% and 32% respectively).

Why this headline progress indicator?

Involvement in social and community groups is an important part of the aspiration for community connections and diversity.

The proportion of people aged 18 years and over who had no involvement in social and community groups in the 12 months prior to being interviewed, is considered a good measure of progress for community connections and diversity because it provides information about those people who are not connected to their community through involvement in social and community groups.

Although people are not involved in social and community groups, this does not mean they are not making use of other social interactions to be connected with, contribute to and be valued by the community. This measure is, therefore, a partial indicator of the level of social and community connectedness amongst Australians.

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is a partial measure of the concepts of community connections and diversity as described above (based on Aspirations for our Nation).



The data source is of high quality.

Let's break it down!

Between 2006 and 2010, across all age groups, there was no significant change in the proportion of people who had no involvement in social and community groups in the 12 months prior to being interviewed.

Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory saw significant increases between 2006 and 2010, in the proportion of people who had no involvement in social and community groups in the 12 months prior to being interviewed (29% to 35% and 24% and 28% respectively).

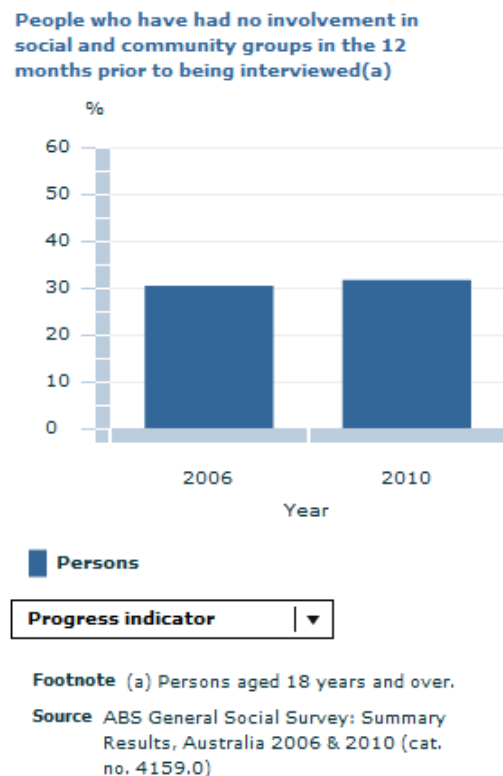
Use the drop down menu on the graph to look at other breakdowns of the indicator (graphs are also available on the further info page).

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to community connections and diversity than the proportion of people who had no involvement in social and community groups. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of community connections and diversity, such as community support and shared identity,

have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.



Footnote(s): (a) Persons aged 18 years and over.;(a) Persons aged 18 years and over.;^ Estimates for 75-84 year age group in 2006 and 85 years and over age groups have relative standard errors of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution.
(a) Persons aged 18 years and over.;(a) Persons aged 18 years and over.

Source(s): ABS General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia 2006 & 2010 (cat. no. 4159.0); ABS General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia 2006 & 2010 (cat. no. 4159.0); ABS General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia 2006 & 2010 (cat. no. 4159.0); ABS General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia 2006 & 2010 (cat. no. 4159.0)

Community relationships in Australia have not changed greatly in recent years

Indicator: The proportion of people who had no involvement in social and community groups in the 12 months prior to being interviewed

Why is this element important?

Community relationships are important because they provide people with a sense of connectedness. These relationships extend beyond a person's family and friends and are based on principles of reciprocity, where people both give and receive from the community. Strong community relationships can enhance the wellbeing of the individual and the community as a whole.

Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about community connections and diversity.

How have we decided things haven't changed greatly?

We have decided that there has been little change in community relationships in Australia in recent years because the proportion of people aged 18 years and over who had no involvement in social and community groups in the 12 months prior to being interviewed (our progress indicator for community relationships) hasn't moved much.

For progress, we would expect to see a decrease in this indicator.

Between 2006 and 2010, the proportion of people aged 18 years and over who had no involvement in

social and community groups remained steady and just below a third of the population (30% and 32% respectively).

Why this progress indicator?

Involvement in social and community groups is an important part of the aspiration for community connections and diversity.

The proportion of people aged 18 years and over who had no involvement in social and community groups in the 12 months prior to being interviewed is considered a good measure of progress for community relationships because it provides information about those people who are not connected to their community through involvement in social and community groups.

Although people are not involved in social and community groups, this does not mean they are not making use of other social interactions to be connected with, contribute to and be valued by the community. This measure is, therefore, a partial indicator of the level of community relationships amongst Australians.

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is a partial measure of community relationships.



The data source is of high quality.

Let's break it down!

Between 2006 and 2010, across all age groups there was no significant change in the proportion of people who had no involvement in social and community groups in the 12 months prior to being interviewed.

Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory saw significant increases between 2006 and 2010, in the proportion of people who had no involvement in social and community groups in the 12 months prior to being interviewed (29% to 35% and 24% and 28% respectively).

Use the drop down menu on the graph to look at other breakdowns of the indicator (graphs are also available on the further info page).

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to community connections and diversity than community relationships. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of community connections and diversity, such as community support and shared identity, have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

A data gap currently exists for community support

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

We propose to use volunteering data as a progress indicator for the community support element in the future.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to community connections and diversity than community support. Look through the other

tabs on this page to see if the other elements of community connections and diversity have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

A data gap currently exists for respect for difference

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

We propose to use rates of discrimination experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as a progress indicator for the respect for difference element in the future, when sufficient data becomes available for us to assess whether progress has been made.

Rates of discrimination experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were collected through the ABS' 2002 and 2008 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Surveys (NATSISS). However, different wording was used to understand people's experiences of discrimination, and therefore, the data is not comparable. As MAP requires comparable data from at least two different points in time to assess whether progress has been made, this element is a data gap.

However, for other statistical and research purposes not associated with change over time, the NATSISS aims to provide the most reliable and meaningful discrimination data from which improved research and informed decision making can occur.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to community connections and diversity than respect for difference. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of community connections and diversity have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

A data gap currently exists for cultural activity and participation

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

We propose to use data from the Cultural Participation Survey as a progress indicator for the cultural activity and participation element in the future, when sufficient data becomes available for us to assess whether progress has been made.

But that is not the whole story...

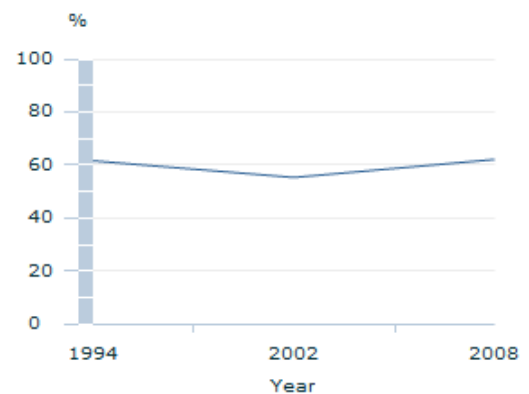
There is more to community connections and diversity than cultural activity and participation. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of community connections and diversity have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

The proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people connecting to their cultures in Australia has not changed greatly since 1994

Indicator: Proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who identify with a clan, tribal group, language group, mission or regional group

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who identify with a clan, tribal clan, language group, mission or regional group(a)



Persons

Progress indicator | ▼

Footnote (a) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People aged 15 years and over, living in private dwellings.

Source ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey, 1994 (cat no 4190.0); ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2002 and 2008 (cat. no. 4714.0)

Footnote(s): (a) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People aged 15 years and over, living in private dwellings.;(a) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People aged 15 years and over, living in private dwellings.;(a) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People aged 15 years and over, living in private dwellings.;(a) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People aged 15 years and over, living in private dwellings.

Source(s): ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey, 1994 (cat no 4190.0); ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2002 and 2008 (cat. no. 4714.0); ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey, 1994 (cat no 4190.0); ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2002 and 2008 (cat. no. 4714.0); ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey, 1994 (cat no 4190.0); ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2002 and 2008 (cat. no. 4714.0); ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey, 1994 (cat no 4190.0); ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2002 and 2008 (cat. no. 4714.0)

Why is this element important?

Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples maintain their cultural heritage by passing their knowledge, arts and rituals from one generation to another, speaking and teaching languages and maintaining their ancestral connections with the land.

Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about community connections and diversity.

How have we decided things haven't changed greatly?

We have decided that the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people connecting to their cultures in Australia has not changed greatly since 1994 because the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who identify with a clan, tribal group, language group, mission or regional group (our progress indicator for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures) hasn't moved much.

For progress, we would expect to see an increase in the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who identify with a clan, tribal group, language group, mission or regional group.

A culture cannot be simply defined nor understood through any one aspect or piece of information. However, there are sometimes individual pieces of information that provide strong glimpses about how culture is being maintained. Maintaining strong levels of connection may be seen as an aim when considering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's ties to their peoples and culture.

Between 1994 and 2008, the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who identify with a clan, tribal group, language group, mission or regional group remained unchanged at 62%.

Why this progress indicator?

Identification with a clan, tribal group, mission or regional group is an important part of the aspiration for community connections and diversity. For most Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, connection to language, culture and country are important for forming personal and group identity.

Although only one piece of information is being used to consider culture, the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who identify with a clan, tribal group, language group, mission or regional group is considered a very good measure of progress for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures. There are many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tribal groups, language groups, clans, missions or regional groups across Australia, each connected to a specific area of land. Each cultural group has unique cultural practices, including songs, stories, dances, Dreamings, ceremonies, initiation practices and laws. For most Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, connection to language, culture and country is important for forming personal and group identity. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people within each cultural group share and pass on their knowledge and cultural practices for the benefit of future generations.

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is a partial measure of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures.



The data source is of high quality.

Let's break it down!

Identification with a cultural group was more common in remote areas than non-remote areas between 1994 and 2008. In 2008, most Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in remote areas identified with a cultural group (80%). This has not changed significantly over time (81% in 1994 and 78% in 2002).

Younger Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were less likely to identify with a cultural group than older people between 1994 and 2008. Since 1994, the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15-24 years who identified with a cultural group decreased from 58% in 1994 to 48% in 2002 and increased to 51% in 2008.

Use the drop down menu on the graph to look at other breakdowns of the indicator (graphs are also available on the further info page).

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to community connections and diversity than Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people connecting to their cultures. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of community connections and diversity have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

A sense of shared identity in Australia has progressed since 1991

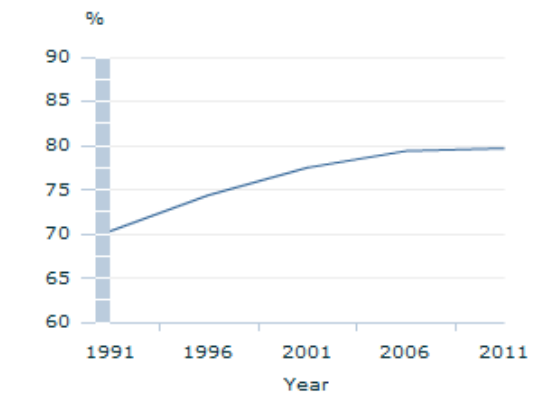
Indicator: Proportion of overseas-born Australian residents (who have lived here for five years or more) who are Australian citizens

Why is this element important?

Australians and our communities have a strong sense of shared identity and what it means to be Australian and thought it was important for Australia's progress.

Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about community connections and diversity.

Overseas-born Australian residents (who have lived here for five years or more) who are Australian citizens



Overseas-born residents

Progress indicator | ▼

Source Data available on request, ABS
Censuses of Population and Housing

Source(s): Data available on request, ABS Censuses of Population and Housing; Data available on request, ABS Censuses of Population and Housing

How have we decided there has been progress?

We have decided that shared identity in Australia has progressed since 1991 because the proportion of overseas-born Australian residents (who have lived here for five years or more) who are Australian citizens (our progress indicator for shared identity) has increased.

Between 1991 and 2011, the proportion of overseas-born Australian residents (who have lived here for five years or more) who are Australian citizens rose gradually from 70% (1.9 million people) to 80% (3 million people).

Why this progress indicator?

One way to view citizenship is to look at the proportion of overseas-born Australian residents (who have lived here for five years or more) who are Australian citizens. This is an important part of the aspiration of shared identity. This is considered an acceptable measure of progress for shared identity because citizenship is a common bond for Australians. Citizenship brings both rights and responsibilities, contributing to both individual and societal wellbeing. For example, citizens have rights beyond those offered to permanent residents, including the right to vote, the right to stand or public office, and the right to hold an Australian passport. But they also have additional responsibilities. They are, for example, required to enrol on the electoral register and vote in elections, serve on a jury if required, and defend Australia should the need arise. Changes in this indicator are influenced by changes in the eligibility criteria to apply for citizenship, such as visa requirements, the number of visas awarded in any given year, and the citizenship residence requirement increasing from two years to four years (including one year as a permanent resident) in July 2010 (DIAC 2010).

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is an indirect measure of shared identity.



The data source is of high quality.

Let's break it down!

Between 1991 and 2011, the proportion of men and women who are overseas born Australian residents (who have lived here for five years or more), who are Australian citizens has increased.

Use the drop down menu on the graph to look at other breakdowns of the indicator (graphs are also

available on the further info page).

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to community connections and diversity than shared identity. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of community connections and diversity have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

This page first published 14 November 2013, last updated 8 May 2014



Further info for community connections and diversity

Need some more info on the community connections and diversity theme? Hopefully this page can point you in the right direction

Contents

Useful links

Glossary

References

Graph summary

This page contains the following further information for community connections and diversity:

- Useful links
- Glossary
- References
- Graph summary

USEFUL LINKS

ABS Topics @ a Glance - Family and Community Statistics

ABS Topics @ a Glance - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

ABS Census of Population and Housing

ABS General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia, 2010 (cat. no. 4159.0)

ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey, 1994 (cat. no. 4190.0)

ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2002 and 2008 (cat. no. 4714.0)

ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey, 2004-05 (cat. no. 4715.0)

ABS Information Paper: Perspectives on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Identification in Selected Data Collection Contexts, 2012 (cat. no. 4726.0)

ABS Participation in Selected Cultural Activities, 2010-11 (cat. no. 4921.0)

GLOSSARY

Aboriginal people

People who identify or are identified as being of Aboriginal origin. May also include people identified as being of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin.

See also 'Torres Strait Islander people'.

Australian citizenship

Australian citizenship is a person's status in relation to Australia and carries certain responsibilities and privileges. The Australian Citizenship ACT 1948 determines who holds Australian Citizenship. A person may acquire Australian Citizenship in a number of ways, for example, by birth, adoption, descent, resumption or grant of Australian citizenship (naturalisation).

Clan, tribal group or language group

A group of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people who share a common language and/or clan or tribal membership.

Non-remote

Geographical areas within the 'Major cities of Australia', 'Inner regional Australia' and 'Outer regional Australia' categories of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) Remoteness Structure.

Overseas-born

The census classification for overseas-born people is, if:

- they were born in a country other than Australia;
- they were born at sea; or
- their response was classified 'Inadequately described'; or
- their response was classified 'Not elsewhere classified'.

Remote area

Geographical areas within 'Remote Australia' and 'Very remote Australia' categories of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) Remoteness Structure and here Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 5 - Remoteness Structure, July 2011.

Torres Strait Islander people

People who identify or are identified as being of Torres Strait Islander origin. May also include people identified as being of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin.

See also 'Aboriginal people'.

Year of arrival in Australia

The year of arrival in Australia is the year an overseas born person first arrived in Australia from another country, with the intention of staying in Australia for one year or more.

REFERENCES

Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC), 2010, Changes to the citizenship residence requirement on 1 July 2010 <<http://www.citizenship.gov.au/>>

Click on the links below to be taken to a summary of the graphs from the corresponding tab within the Community connections and diversity theme:

Overall progress?

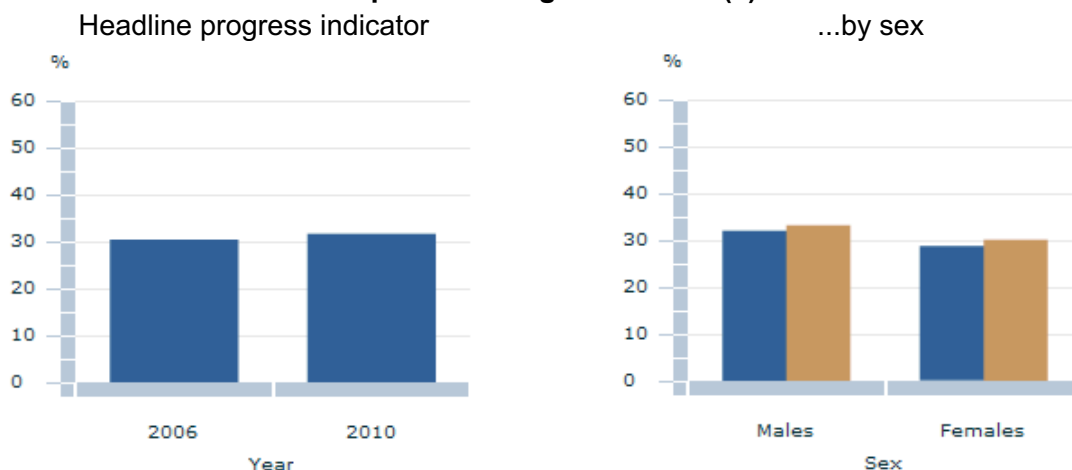
Community relationships

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures

Shared identity

OVERALL PROGRESS?

People who have had no involvement in social and community groups in the 12 months prior to being interviewed(a)



Footnote:

(a) Persons aged 18 years and over.

Source:

■ 2006 ■ 2010

Footnote:

...by age



Footnote:

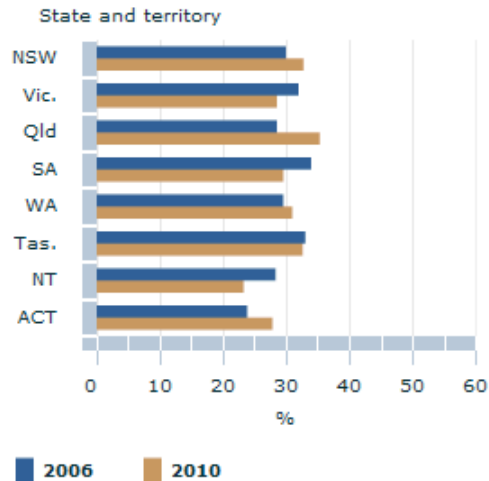
^ Estimates for 75-84 year age group in 2006 and 85 years and over age groups have relative standard errors of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution.

(a) Persons aged 18 years and over.

Source:

ABS General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia 2006 & 2010
(cat. no. 4159.0)

...by state and territory



Footnote:

(a) Persons aged 18 years and over.

Source:

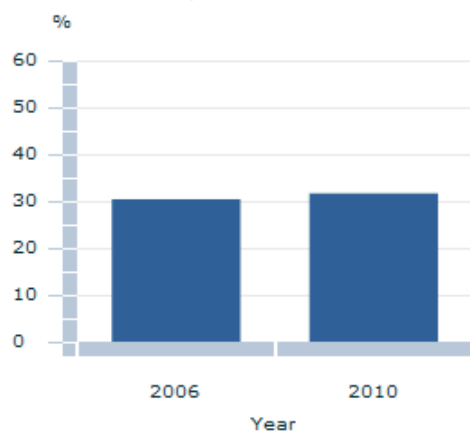
ABS General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia 2006 & 2010
(cat. no. 4159.0)

[Back to top](#)

COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS

People who have had no involvement in social and community groups in the 12 months prior to being interviewed(a)

Progress indicator



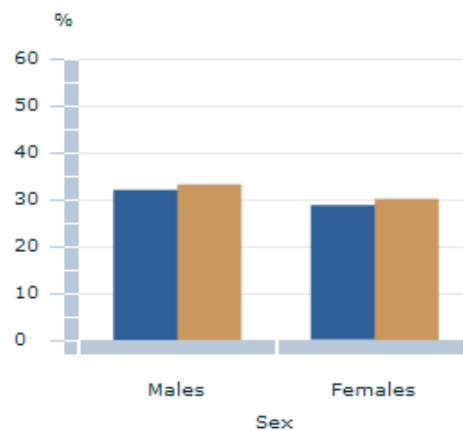
Footnote:

(a) Persons aged 18 years and over.

Source:

ABS General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia 2006 & 2010
(cat. no. 4159.0)

...by sex



Footnote:

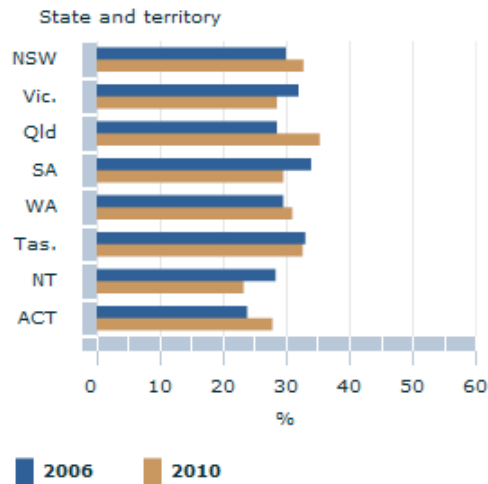
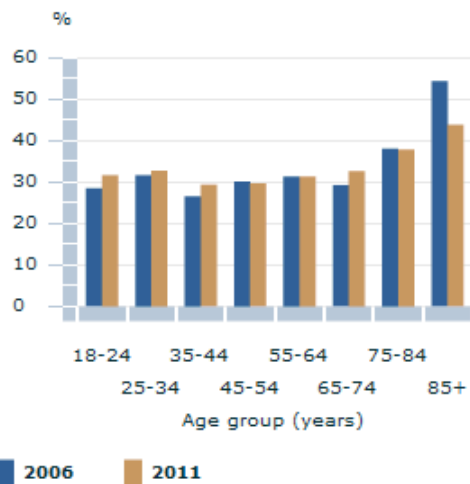
(a) Persons aged 18 years and over.

Source:

ABS General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia 2006 & 2010
(cat. no. 4159.0)

...by age

...by state and territory



Footnote:
 ^ Estimates for 75-84 year age group in 2006 and 85 years and over age groups have relative standard errors of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution.
 (a) Persons aged 18 years and over.
 Source:
 ABS General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia 2006 & 2010 (cat. no. 4159.0)

Footnote:
 (a) Persons aged 18 years and over.
 Source:
 ABS General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia 2006 & 2010 (cat. no. 4159.0)

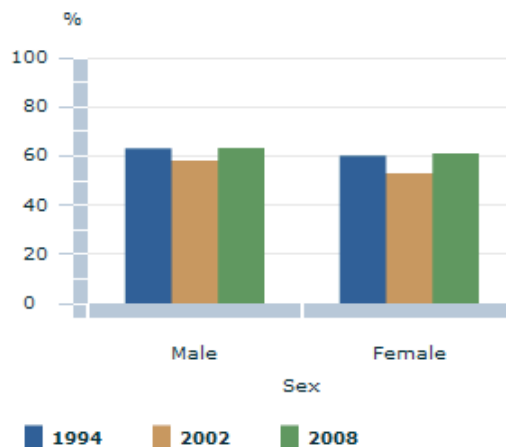
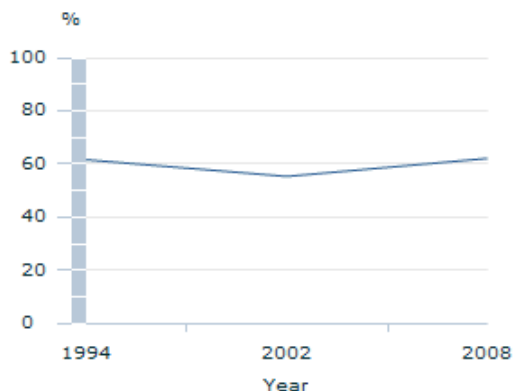
[Back to top](#)

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CULTURES

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who identify with a clan, tribal clan, language group, mission or regional group(a)

Progress indicator

...by sex

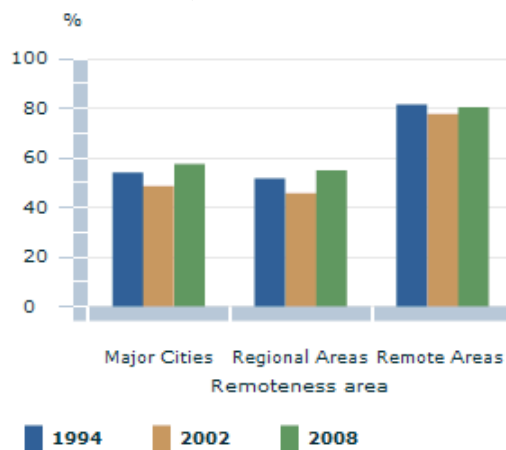
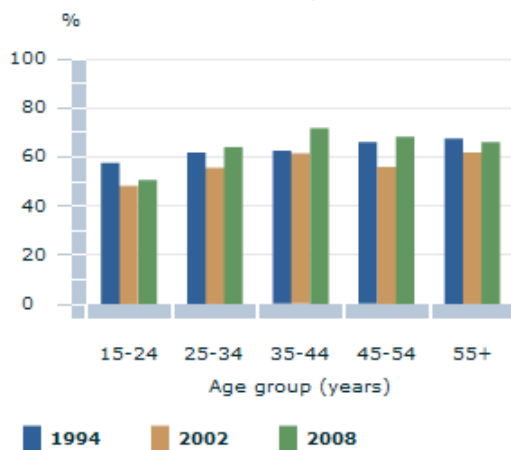


Footnote:
 (a) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People aged 15 years and over, living in private dwellings.
 Source:
 ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey, 1994 (cat no 4190.0)
 ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2002 and 2008 (cat. no. 4714.0)

Footnote:
 (a) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People aged 15 years and over, living in private dwellings.
 Source:
 ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey, 1994 (cat no 4190.0)
 ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2002 and 2008 (cat. no. 4714.0)

...by age

...by remoteness area



Footnote:

Footnote:

(a) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People aged 15 years and over, living in private dwellings.
Source:
ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey, 1994 (cat no 4190.0)
ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2002 and 2008 (cat. no. 4714.0)

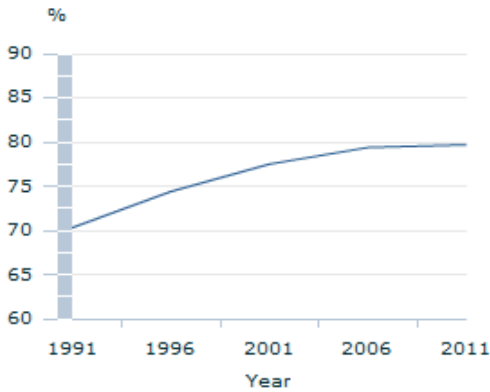
(a) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People aged 15 years and over, living in private dwellings.
Source:
ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey, 1994 (cat no 4190.0)
ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2002 and 2008 (cat. no. 4714.0)

[Back to top](#)

SHARED IDENTITY

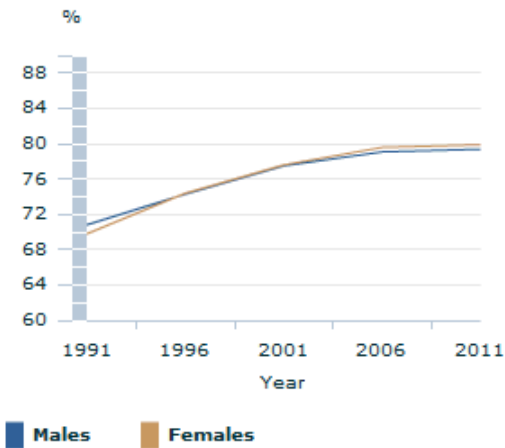
Overseas-born Australian residents (who have lived here for five years or more) who are Australian citizens

Progress indicator



Source:
Data available on request, ABS Censuses of Population and Housing

...by sex



Source:
Data available on request, ABS Censuses of Population and Housing
[Back to top](#)



A fair go

Australians aspire to a fair society that enables everyone to meet their needs

Overall progress?**Overall progress?**

Meeting basic needs**Needs**

Services**Services**

Education, training and information**Education**

Employment**Employment**

Income**Income**

Infrastructure and Assistance for vulnerable people**Infrastructure and Assistance**



A data gap currently exists for a fair go

Why is this theme important?

Australians told us that all people should have an equal opportunity to establish, improve and maintain their wellbeing, and have access to the services and opportunities that support these efforts. This echoes the familiar Australian tradition of egalitarianism. It includes the ability of people to meet their basic needs, build their capabilities, gain income through employment and access information. It also relates to the quality and availability of infrastructure such as transport, which underpins these activities. The idea of an equal opportunity, or a fair go, was seen as particularly important for those who are at vulnerable points in their lives or who are marginalised or disadvantaged.

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

A range of possible indicators are being considered for assessing a fair go, but the concept is broad and difficult to summarise in any one measure. In order to capture the spirit of this idea in a measure, further development will need to be undertaken. We will continue to explore options for a suitable indicator in the future.

But that is not the whole story...

Look through the other tabs on this page to see where we have been able to track progress for the aspiration of a fair go.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

The ability of people to meet basic needs in Australia has progressed in recent years

Indicator: Proportion of households that have low economic resources and have experienced one or more financial stressors

Why is this element important?

A contributor to people's standard of living and wellbeing is the amount of discretion they have in their spending on goods and services to meet their needs.

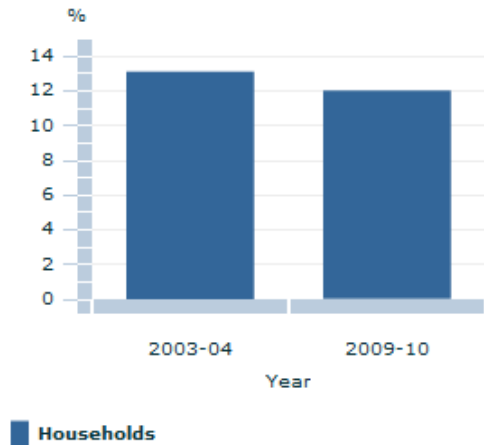
Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about a fair go.

How have we decided there has been progress?

We have decided that meeting basic needs in Australia has progressed in recent years because the proportion of households that have low economic resources and have experienced one or more financial stressors (our progress indicator for meeting basic needs) has decreased.

In 2009-10, the proportion of households that had low economic resources and experienced one or more financial stressors was 12%, lower than the proportion six years earlier in 2003-04 (13%).

Households that have low economic resources & have experienced one or more financial stressors



Source ABS data available on request, Household Expenditure Survey

Source(s): ABS data available on request, Household Expenditure Survey

Low economic resource households are those that are simultaneously in the lowest four deciles of both equivalised household income (including imputed rent) and equivalised household net worth. Financial stressors experienced may include; not being able to pay electricity, gas or telephone bills on time, going without meals, the inability to access \$2000 in a week to pay for something important and not being able to pay car registration or insurance on time, to name just a few.

Imputed rent is included in this income measure as mentioned above. Imputed rent allows for more meaningful comparison of income circumstances of people living in different tenure types, as well as changes over time in income levels and the distribution of income.

The indicator also uses equivalised household income and net worth. This means that the income that households receive, and their net worth (the value of a household's assets less the value of its liabilities) have been adjusted to account for differences in household size and composition.

Why this progress indicator?

The ability of people to meet their basic needs is an important part of the aspiration for a fair go.

The proportion of households that have low economic resources and have experienced one or more financial stressors, is considered a good measure of progress for meeting basic needs. This is because a key element of people's living standards and wellbeing is the amount of discretion they have in their spending on goods and services to meet their needs.

While our measures of income and wealth provide information on the main economic resources available to households (and these measures can describe people's associated consumption patterns), they do not necessarily tell the full story of how households are coping financially. For example, households may go without key goods and services, or seek financial assistance from others, to meet financial commitments or to maintain other expenditure. The extent to which this occurs can provide an indication of the overall financial stress experienced by households.

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is a partial measure of meeting basic needs.



The data source is of high quality.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to a fair go than meeting basic needs. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of a fair go have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

A data gap currently exists for services

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

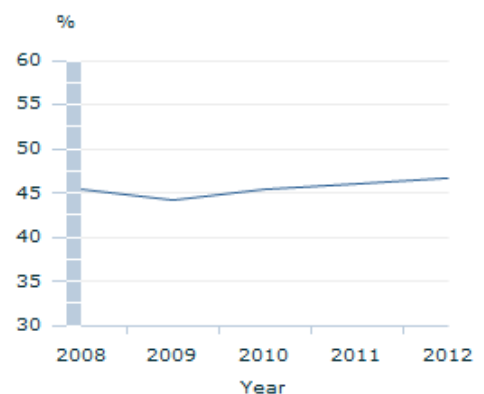
We propose to use the proportion of people who find cost is a barrier to seeing a General Practitioner as a progress indicator for the services element in the future, when sufficient data becomes available for us to assess whether progress has been made.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to a fair go than services. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of a fair go have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

Participation rates in education(a)



Formal education(b)

Progress indicator

Footnote (a) Persons aged 18-24 years. (b) Formal Education includes School Level Education, Higher Education, Vocational Education, and study for non-school qualification where the level was unable to be determined.

Source ABS data available on request, 2008-2012 Surveys of Education and Work

Footnote(s): (a) Persons aged 18-24 years. (b) Formal Education includes School Level Education, Higher Education, Vocational Education, and study for non-school qualification where the level was unable to be determined.:(a) Persons aged 18-24 years. (b) Higher education includes Postgraduate degrees, Masters degrees, Graduate diplomas, Graduate certificates

and Bachelor degrees. (c) Vocational education includes Advanced diplomas, Diplomas and Certificates I to IV. (d) Formal education includes School level education, Higher education, Vocational education, and study for non-school qualification where the level was unable to be determined. (a) Persons aged 18-24 years. (b) SES is derived using the ABS 2006 SEIFA IRSD (at CD level) disaggregated into quintiles (where 1 is the most disadvantaged and 5 is the least disadvantaged). Low SES represents Quintile 1. (c) Higher Education includes Postgraduate degrees, Master degrees, Graduate diplomas, Graduate certificates and Bachelor degrees. (d) Vocational Education includes Advanced diplomas, Diplomas and Certificates I to IV. (e) Formal Education includes School Level Education, Higher Education, Vocational Education, and study for non-school qualification where the level was unable to be determined. (a) Children aged 4-5 years. (b) Qld rate uses counts of episodes as counts of children is not available. (c) Preschool participation rate is the number of preschool students of a particular age expressed as a proportion of the population of the same age. (d) Some rates may exceed 100%. The age grouping of 4-5 years approximates a single year of preschool enrolment contributing to rates over 100%. Children may also attend preschool programs across years contributing to participation rates over 100%. For further information, see Explanatory notes in ABS Preschool Education, Australia (cat. no. 4240.0). (a) Students aged 6-17 years. (b) ACT rate exceeds 100% largely as a result of NSW residents from surrounding areas enrolling in ACT schools. (c) Comparisons between jurisdictions may be influenced by differences in school commencement ages. (d) The school participation rate is the number of school students of a particular age expressed as a proportion of the population of the same age. (e) Some rates may exceed 100%. For further information, see Explanatory notes in ABS Schools, Australia (cat. no. 4221.0).

Source(s): ABS data available on request, 2008-2012 Surveys of Education and Work; ABS data available on request, 2012 Survey of Education and Work; ABS data available on request, 2012 Survey of Education and Work; ABS Preschool Education, Australia, 2012 (cat. no. 4240.0) ; ABS Schools, Australia, 2012 (cat. no. 4221.0)

There has been progress in Australia in accessing education and training, and related information in recent years

Indicator: Education participation rates for people aged 18-24 years

Why is this element important?

Australians having access to participate in quality education training, and access to information about education and training, is an important part of the aspiration for a fair go.

Education and training helps people to develop knowledge and skills that may be used to enhance their own wellbeing and that of the broader community. For an individual, education is widely regarded as a key factor in developing a rewarding career and enhancing their own social development and ultimate life satisfaction. For the nation, having a skilled workforce is vital in supporting ongoing economic development and in improving living conditions.

Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about a fair go.

How have we decided there has been progress?

We have decided that accessing education, training and related information in Australia has progressed in recent years because education participation rates for people aged 18-24 years (our progress indicator for education, training and information) has increased.

Formal education participation rates in Australia for people aged 18-24 years have steadily increased over the last five years. In 2008, the overall participation rate was 45%, this increased to 47% in 2012.

People aged 18-24 years, from low socioeconomic areas were less likely than the total population of 18-24 year olds to participate in formal education. However, the proportion of 18-24 year olds from low socioeconomic areas participating in formal education increased from 36% in 2008 to 38% in 2012.

Why this progress indicator?

Participating in and having the opportunity to access education is an important part of the aspiration for a fair go.

Education participation rates are considered a good measure of progress for education, training and information because they can tell us about the number of Australians that are accessing and participating in different types of education. However, the 18-24 age cohort only provides a snapshot of participation. It is also important to consider the participation of younger Australians.

Pre-school participation rates for enrolled children aged 4-5 years and school participation rates for students aged 6-17 years can also indicate progress for education, training and information by providing a broader picture of education participation. However, because we only have data about these age

groups for 2012, we are unable to make a progress assessment as yet. We have included some information about these two indicators in the 'Let's break it down!' section below.

Within the context of the aspiration of a fair go, access to information about education and training was also seen as an important part of being able to have access to educational services. In choosing our progress indicator, we have focussed on the measures that show access to education.

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is a partial measure of education, training and information.



The data source is of high quality.

Let's break it down!

In 2012, the overall preschool participation rate for enrolled children aged 4-5 was 90% (or 266,036 children). The Australian Capital Territory had the highest education participation rates for enrolled preschoolers at 109%, while New South Wales had the lowest rates at 74%.

In 2012, the overall school participation rate for students aged 6-17 was 97% (or 3.3 million students). Again the Australian Capital Territory has the highest participation rate with 108%, while the Northern Territory had the lowest school participation rate at 90%.

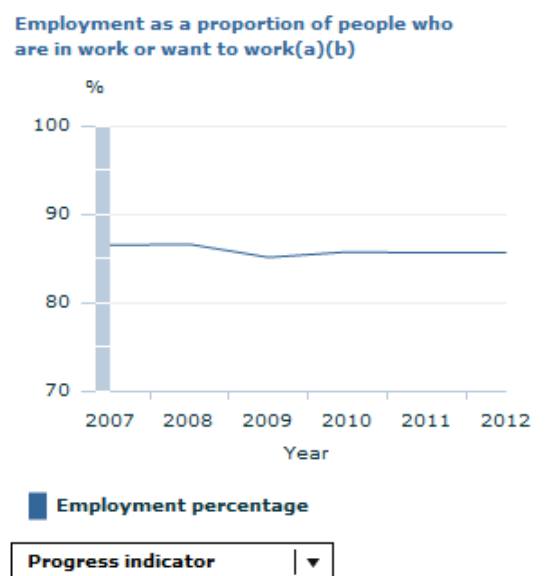
(Note: The reason why participation rates for the Australian Capital Territory, Victoria and Tasmania are above 100% is given in the explanatory notes on the further info page).

Use the drop down menu on the graph to look at other breakdowns of the indicator (graphs are also available on the further info page).

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to a fair go than education, training and related information. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of a fair go have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.



Footnote (a) Persons ages 15 years and over. (b) Data is for September.

Source ABS data available on request, Persons Not in the Labour Force

Footnote(s): (a) Persons ages 15 years and over. (b) Data is for September. (a) Persons aged 15 years and over. (b) Data is for September. (a) Persons aged 15 years and over. (b) Data is for September.

Source(s): ABS data available on request, Persons Not in the Labour Force; ABS data available on request, Persons Not in the Labour Force; ABS data available on request, Persons Not in the Labour Force
Access to employment in Australia has not changed greatly in recent years

Indicator: Employment as a proportion of people who are in work or want to work

Why is this element important?

Access to employment is an important part of wellbeing both for individuals and societies. Work benefits individuals by offering them financial security through a source of income. Work also benefits people by enhancing their skills, building social networks and contributing to a person's sense of identity and purpose. Within society, work is critical in ensuring that the goods, services and wider social conditions that benefit all members of the community are generated. Therefore, it is important that society provides people with the ability to access employment opportunities, which in turn supports their wellbeing.

Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about a fair go.

How have we decided things haven't changed greatly?

We have decided that there has been little change in access to employment in Australia in recent years because employment as a proportion of people who are in work or want to work (our progress indicator for employment) hasn't moved much.

For there to be improvement to access to employment in Australia, we would expect to see discernible growth in employment as a proportion of people who are in work or want to work. When viewed in the context of the number of people wanting to work, the proportion of the Australian population in employment has not changed greatly.

In 2007, 87% of the population that were in work or wanted to work were employed. Five years later in 2012, the rate was similar at 86% with only minor downward movement in the rate recorded during intervening years in the wake of the global financial crisis. As a population, there were 1.9 million Australians in 2012 who wanted to work but were not employed.

Why this progress indicator?

Being able to find work tells us about employment as part of the aspiration for a fair go.

Employment as a proportion of people who are in work or want to work is considered a good measure of progress for access to employment because it measures whether those who want to work are able to do so. Examining employment in relation to people who are in work or want to work can be useful to understand how well people's aspirations to work are being met in the economy. In addition to including people who are employed and unemployed, the measure includes people who are not in the labour force who report that they want to work, i.e. that they have a desire or aspiration for work. It excludes those not in the labour force who are retired, permanently not able to work and those who do not want to work.

A high proportion of people who are in work or want to work indicates that businesses, governments and other sectors of the economy are adequately providing opportunities for employment to those who want it. A high proportion also indicates that the productive potential of Australians is being harnessed to support economic production and that unused labour capacity is small.

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is a direct measure of access to employment.



The data source is of high quality.

Let's break it down!

Between 2007 and 2012, employment as a proportion of people who are in work or want to work was

consistently lower for women than for men (between 5-8 percentage points). In 2012, this equated to there being 846,000 men and 1,096,000 women who wanted to work but were not employed.

Across the states and territories, Tasmania and Queensland saw a significant decrease in the proportion of people who are in work or want to work between 2007 and 2012 (84% to 81% and 88% to 86%, respectively). There were no other significant changes for the other states and territories during this period. Between 2007 and 2012, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory had the highest proportion of people who were in work or wanted to work, while Tasmania had the lowest.

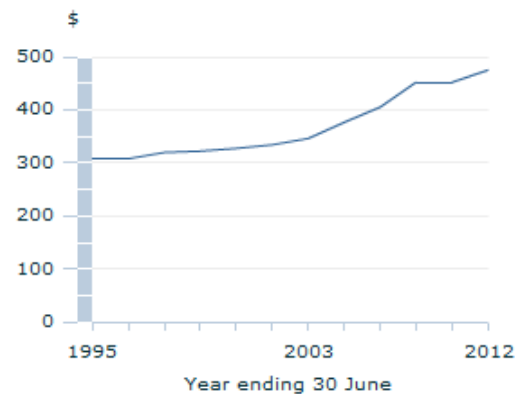
Use the drop down menu on the graph to look at other breakdowns of the indicator (graphs are also available on the further info page).

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to a fair go than access to employment. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of a fair go have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

Disposable household income for low & middle income households(a)



■ Average real equivalised income

Footnote (a) Estimates presented from 2007-08 onwards are not directly comparable with estimates for previous cycles due to the improvements made to measuring income introduced in 2007-08 cycle. Estimates for 2003-04 and 2005-06 have been recompiled to reflect the new treatments of income, however not all components introduced are available to present the years on a comparable basis.

Source ABS data available on request, Surveys of Income and Housing

Footnote(s): (a) Estimates presented from 2007-08 onwards are not directly comparable with estimates for previous cycles due to the improvements made to measuring income introduced in 2007-08 cycle. Estimates for 2003-04 and 2005-06 have been recompiled to reflect the new treatments of income, however not all components introduced are available to present the years on a comparable basis.

Source(s): ABS data available on request, Surveys of Income and Housing

Household income in Australia has progressed since 1995

Indicator: Average real equivalised disposable household income for low and middle income households

Why is this element important?

The economic wellbeing of individuals is largely determined by their command over economic resources. Income and wealth are the economic resources that households use to support their consumption of goods and services.

Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about a fair go.

How have we decided there has been progress?

We have decided that household income in Australia has progressed since 1995 because the average real equivalised disposable household income for low and middle income households (our progress indicator for income) has increased.

Between 1994-95 and 2011-12, the average real equivalised disposable household income for low and middle income households increased from \$308 to \$475 per week. However, part of this increase reflects improvements to the way income is measured. (Endnote 1)

Real equivalised disposable household income means that the income households receive has been adjusted to account for differences in household size and composition. For example, a household comprising of two people would normally need to receive more income than a lone person household to enjoy the same standard of living. While equivalised disposable household income allows for better comparisons between households, it also assumes that all individuals have the same resource needs if they are to enjoy the same standard of living.

Why this progress indicator?

The amount of disposable household income that low and middle income households have to spend is an important part of the aspiration for a fair go.

The average real equivalised disposable household income for low and middle income households is considered a good measure of progress for income because it is a determinant of material living standards. Disposable household income may be spent on the consumption of goods and services or be set aside as savings for future consumption or investment. For most people the level of income that they and other family members receive is a major part of household economic resources. People living in households with low income will be less likely to have sufficient economic resources to support an acceptable material standard of household living.

Quality assessment (see key)



This indicator is a direct measure of household income.



The data source is of high quality.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to a fair go than household income. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of a fair go have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

ENDNOTES

1. Estimates presented from 2007–08 onwards are not directly comparable with estimates for previous cycles due to the improvements made to measuring income introduced in the 2007–08 cycle. Estimates for 2003–04 and 2005–06 have been recompiled to reflect the new treatments of income, however not all components are available to present years on a comparable basis.

A data gap currently exists for infrastructure

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or

4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

We propose to use the perceived level of difficulty accessing transport as a progress indicator for the infrastructure element in the future, when sufficient data becomes available for us to assess whether progress has been made.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to a fair go than infrastructure. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of a fair go have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

A data gap currently exists for assistance for vulnerable people

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

In order to capture the spirit of this idea in a measure, further development will need to be undertaken. We will continue to explore options for a suitable indicator in the future.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to a fair go than assistance for vulnerable people. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of a fair go have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.



Further info for a fair go

Need some more info on the a fair go theme? Hopefully this page can point you in the right direction

Contents

Useful links

Glossary

References

Graph summary

This page contains the following further information for a fair go:

- Useful links
- Glossary
- References
- Graph summary

USEFUL LINKS

ABS Topics @ a Glance - Health

ABS Topics @ a Glance - Labour

ABS Topics @ a Glance - Education and Training

ABS Topics @ a Glance - Personal, Family Household Finances

ABS General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia, 2010 (cat. no.4159.0)

ABS Schools, Australia, 2012 (cat. no. 4221.0)

ABS Preschool Education, Australia, 2012 (cat. no. 4240.0)

ABS Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings, 2009 (cat. no, 4430.0)

ABS Patient Experiences in Australia: Summary of Findings, 2011-12 (cat. no. 4839.0)

ABS Persons not in the Labour Force, Australia, September 2012 (cat. no. 6220.0)

ABS Education and Work, Australia, May 2012 (cat. no. 6227.0)

ABS Household Expenditure Survey, Australia: Summary of Results, 2009-10 (cat. no. 6530.0)

Relationships Australia <<http://www.relationships.org.au/>>

GLOSSARY

Deciles

Groupings that result from ranking all households or persons in the population in ascending order according to some characteristic such as their household income and then dividing the population into 10 equal groups, each comprising 10% of the estimated population.

Disposable income

Gross income less income tax, the Medicare levy and the Medicare levy surcharge i.e. remaining income after taxes are deducted, which is available to support consumption and /or saving. Income tax, Medicare levy and the Medicare levy surcharge are imputed based on each person's income and other characteristics as reported in the survey. Disposable income is sometimes referred to as net income.

Enrolment

A child is considered to be enrolled if they were offered a place in the preschool program and:

- attended the preschool program for a least one hour during the reference period; or
- were absent during the reference period due to illness or extended holiday leave, but were expected to return.

A child is not considered to be enrolled if they were absent during the reference period and not expected to return to the preschool program.

Episode of enrolment/attending a preschool program

An episode is the count of the occurrence of a specific characteristic. For the National Early Education and Care (ECEC) Collection, an episode refers to a preschool program provided to a child. When one child attends two different preschool programs, the child is attending two episodes of preschool.

Equivalised disposable household income

Disposable household income adjusted using an equivalence scale. For a lone person household it is equal to disposable household income. For a household comprising more than one person, it is an indicator of the disposable household income that would need to be received by a lone person household to enjoy the same level of economic wellbeing as the household in question.

Estimated resident population (ERP)

The estimated resident population (ERP) is the official measure of the population of Australia. It is based on the concept of usual residence. For the purpose of ERP, a person is regarded as a usual resident if they have been (or are expected to be) residing in Australia for a period of 12 months or more. As such, it refers to all people, regardless of nationality, citizenship or legal status who usually live in Australia, with the exception of foreign diplomatic personnel and their families.

Financial stress

The financial stress questions asked in the Household expenditure survey relate to cash flow problems and financial resources. The nine specific financial stress indicators are:

- household spends more money than it gets (over the last 12 months);
- unable to raise \$2,000 in a week to pay for something important;
- could not pay electricity, gas or telephone bills on time;
- could not pay car registration or insurance on time;
- pawned or sold something;
- went without meals;
- could not afford to heat their home;
- sought assistance from welfare/community organisations; and
- sought financial help from friends or family.

Formal education

Formal education includes: School Level Education; Higher Education; Vocational Education, and for study for non-school qualification where the level is unable to be determined. Higher education includes: Postgraduate degrees; Master degrees; Graduate diplomas; Graduate certificates and Bachelor degrees. As well as, Vocational Education which includes Advanced diplomas, Diplomas and Certificates I to IV.

Higher education

Education offered by a university or other higher education institution, leading toward the award of a degree of higher level qualification. Higher education includes Postgraduate degrees, Master degrees, Graduate diplomas, Graduate certificates and Bachelor degrees. As well as, Vocational Education includes Advanced diplomas, Diplomas and Certificates I to IV.

Household

A person living alone or a group of related or unrelated people who usually live in the same private dwelling. For the purposes of the National ECEC Collection, is defined as a structured, play-based learning program, delivered by a degree qualified teacher, primarily aimed at children in the year before they commence full-time schooling. This is irrespective of the type of institution that provides it or whether it is government funded or privately provided.

Imputed rent

The estimated market rent that a dwelling would attract if it were to be commercially rented. The addition of net imputed rent allows for more meaningful comparison of the income circumstances of people living

in different tenure types. Including imputed rent as part of household income and expenditure conceptually treats owner-occupiers as if they were renting their home from themselves, thus simultaneously incurring rental expenditure and earning rental income. Imputed rent is included in income on a net basis i.e. the imputed value of the services received less the value of the housing costs incurred by the household in their role as landlord. For further information, ABS Household Income and Income Distribution, Australia, 2011-12 (cat. no. 6523.0).

Income

Income consists of all current receipts, whether monetary or in kind, that are received by the household or by individual members of the household, and which are available for, or intended to support, current consumption.

Income includes receipts from:

- wages and salaries and other receipts from employment (whether from an employer or own incorporated enterprise), including income provided as part of salary sacrificed and/or salary package arrangements;
- profit/loss from own unincorporated business (including partnerships);
- net investment income (interest, rent, dividends, royalties);
- government pensions and allowances; and
- private transfers (e.g. superannuation, workers' compensation, income from annuities, child support, and financial support received from family members not living in the same household).

Gross income is the sum of the income from all these sources before income tax, the Medicare levy and the Medicare levy surcharge are deducted. Other measures of income are Disposable income and Equivalised disposable household income.

Note that child support and other transfers from other households are not deducted from the incomes of the households making the transfers.

Low economic resource households (LER Households)

Low economic resource households are those households in the lowest four deciles (i.e 40%) of both equivalised disposable income and equivalised household net worth. People in other households are those who are not in low economic resource households.

Net worth

Net worth is the value of a household's assets less the value of its liabilities. Net worth may be negative when household liabilities exceed household assets.

Preschool program

For the purposes of the National ECEC Collection, is defined as a structured, play-based learning program, delivered by a degree qualified teacher, primarily aimed at children in the year before they commence full-time schooling. This is irrespective of the type of institution that provides it or whether it is government funded or privately provided.

Preschool Participation Rate

Preschool participation rates for the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) are above 100% due to enrolled and attending preschool children from Jervis Bay being included in the statistics for the ACT.

School participation rates for students aged 6-17 in the ACT are above 100% due largely as a result of New South Wales residents from surrounding areas enrolling in ACT schools. School students in Jervis Bay are included in the ACT student totals for these rates (numerator), however, Jervis Bay is classified under 'Other territories' in the Estimated Resident Population series and is only included in the Australian totals for the denominator.

Qualification

Formal certification, issued by a relevant approved body, in recognition that a person has achieved an

appropriate level of learning outcomes or competencies relevant to identifies individual, professional, industry or community needs. Statements of attainment awarded for partial completion of a course of study at a particular level are excluded.

School Participation Rate (SPR)

This is a measure of the number of school students of a particular age expressed as a proportion of the Estimated Resident Population of the same age. It indicates the proportion of the population by age who are at school. See Explanatory Notes for further information.

Socio-economic status (SES)

Socio-economic status is derived using the ABS 2006 SEIFA IRSD (at CD level) disaggregated into quintiles (where 1 is the most disadvantaged and 5 is the least disadvantaged). Low SES represents Quintile 1.

There are no references for this theme

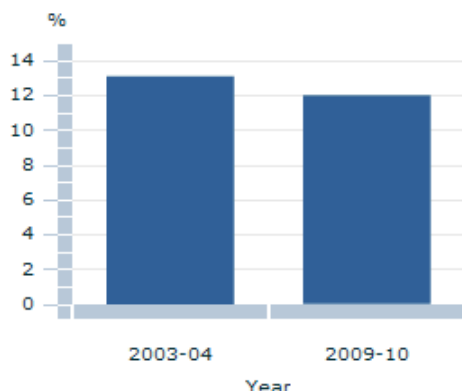
Click on the links below to be taken to a summary of the graphs from the corresponding tab within the A fair go theme:

Meeting basic needs
Education, training and information
Employment
Income

MEETING BASIC NEEDS

Households that have low economic resources & have experienced one or more financial stressors

Progress indicator



Source:
ABS data available on request, Household Expenditure Survey

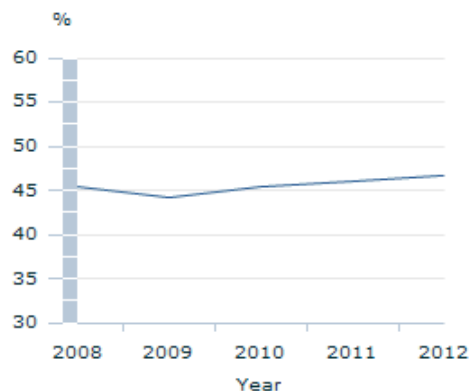
[Back to top](#)

EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INFORMATION

Participation rates in education(a)

Progress indicator

...by sex - 2012



Formal education(b)

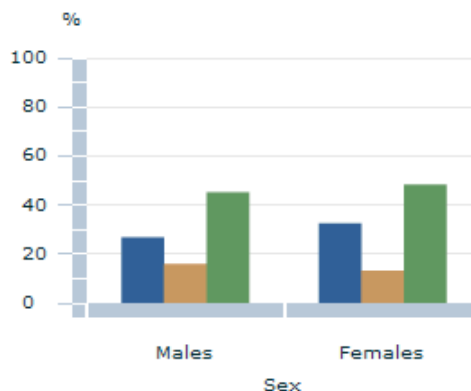
Footnote:

(a) Persons aged 18-24 years.

(b) Formal Education includes School Level Education, Higher Education, Vocational Education, and study for non-school qualification where the level was unable to be determined.

Source:

ABS data available on request, 2008-2012 Surveys of Education and Work



Higher education(b)

Vocational education(c)

Total formal education(d)

Footnote:

(a) Persons aged 18-24 years.

(b) Higher education includes Postgraduate degrees, Masters degrees, Graduate diplomas, Graduate certificates and Bachelor degrees.

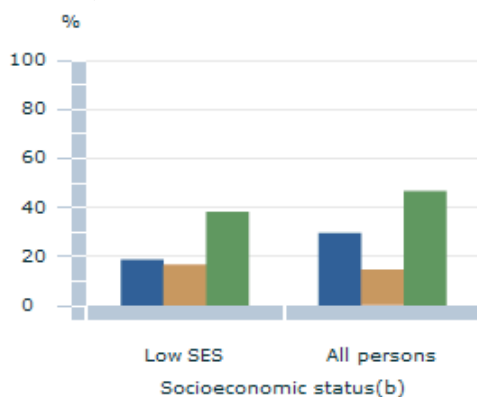
(c) Vocational education includes Advanced diplomas, Diplomas and Certificates I to IV.

(d) Formal education includes School level education, Higher education, Vocational education, and study for non-school qualification where the level was unable to be determined.

Source:

ABS data available on request, 2012 Survey of Education and Work

...by socioeconomic status - 2012



Higher education(c)

Vocational education(d)

Total formal education(e)

Footnote:

(a) Persons aged 18-24 years.

(b) SES is derived using the ABS 2006 SEIFA IRSD (at CD level) disaggregated into quintiles (where 1 is the most disadvantaged and 5 is the least disadvantaged). Low SES represents Quintile 1.

(c) Higher Education includes Postgraduate degrees, Master degrees, Graduate diplomas, Graduate certificates and Bachelor degrees.

(d) Vocational Education includes Advanced diplomas, Diplomas and Certificates I to IV.

(e) Formal Education includes School Level Education, Higher Education, Vocational Education, and study for non-school qualification where the level was unable to be determined.

Source:

ABS data available on request, 2012 Survey of Education and Work

Preschool participation - 2012



Participation rate(c)(d)

Footnote:

(a) Children aged 4-5 years.

(b) Qld rate uses counts of episodes as counts of children is not available.

(c) Preschool participation rate is the number of preschool students of a particular age expressed as a proportion of the population of the same age.

(d) Some rates may exceed 100%. The age grouping of 4-5 years approximates a single year of preschool enrolment contributing to rates over 100%. Children may also attend preschool programs across years contributing to participation rates over 100%. For further information, see Explanatory notes in ABS Preschool Education, Australia, 2012 (cat. no. 4240.0).

Source:

ABS Preschool Education, Australia, 2012 (cat. no. 4240.0)

School participation - 2012



Participation rate(d)(e)

Footnote:

(a) Students aged 6-17 years.

(b) ACT rate exceeds 100% largely as a result of NSW residents from surrounding areas enrolling in ACT schools.

(c) Comparisons between jurisdictions may be influenced by differences in school commencement ages.

(d) The school participation rate is the number of school students of a particular age expressed as a proportion of the population of the same age.

(e) Some rates may exceed 100%. For further information, see Explanatory notes in ABS Preschool Education, Australia, 2012 (cat. no. 4240.0).

Source:

ABS Schools, Australia, 2012 (cat. no. 4221.0)

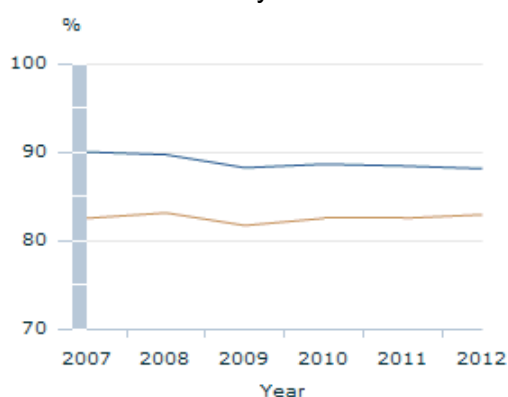
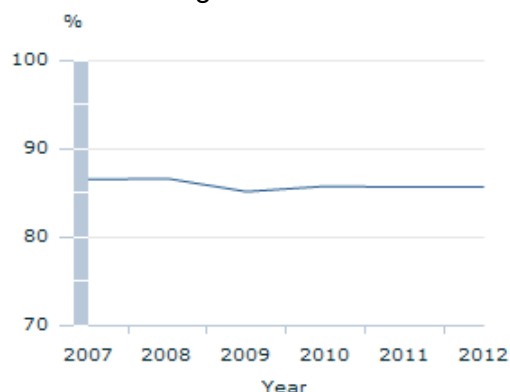
[Back to top](#)

EMPLOYMENT

Employment as a proportion of people who are in work or want to work(a)(b)

Progress indicator

...by sex



Footnote:

(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

(b) Data is for September.

Source:

ABS data available on request, Persons Not in the Labour Force

■ Males ■ Females

Footnote:

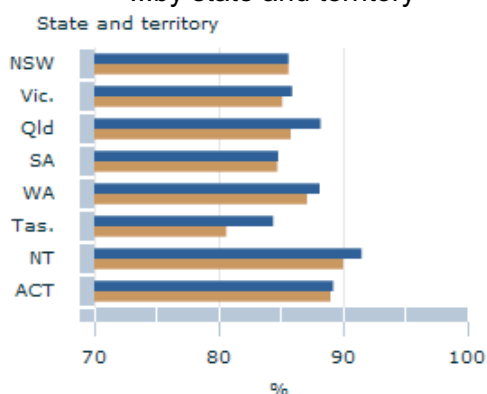
(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

(b) Data is for September.

Source:

ABS data available on request, Persons Not in the Labour Force

...by state and territory



■ 2007 ■ 2012

Footnote:

(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

(b) Data is for September.

Source:

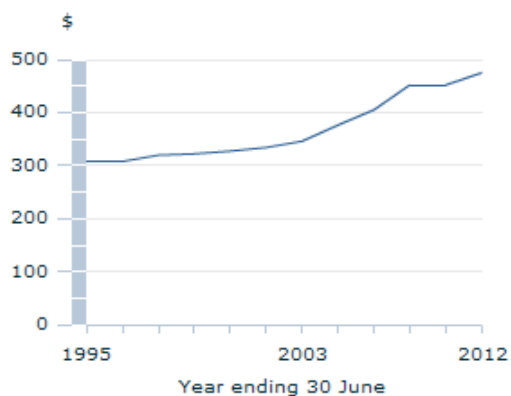
ABS data available on request, Persons Not in the Labour Force

[Back to top](#)

INCOME

Disposable household income for low & middle income households(a)

Progress indicator



■ Average real equivalised income

Footnote:

(a) Estimates presented from 2007-08 onwards are not directly comparable with estimates for previous cycles due to the improvements made to measuring income introduced in 2007-08 cycle. Estimates for 2003-04 and 2005-06 have been recompiled to reflect the new treatments of income, however not all components introduced are available to present the years on a comparable basis.

Source:

ABS data available on request, Surveys of Income and Housing

[Back to top](#)



Enriched lives

Australians aspire to value all aspects of life that are important to people and enrich their lives

Overall progress?**Overall progress?**

Feelings**Feelings**

Giving**Giving**

Time and opportunity**Time**

Recreation and sport**Recreation**

Popular culture and the arts**Culture**

Spirituality**Spirituality**



A data gap currently exists for enriched lives

Why is this theme important?

Australians told us that many aspects of life that increase wellbeing and make life worthwhile are not material, and are intangible. Many participants in the consultation process wanted to acknowledge that these factors are important in people's lives. For example, many felt that emotions can be as important to people's sense of wellbeing as their material conditions and acts of altruism or caring can positively affect both the giver and receiver. Music, dance, art, poetry, film and the many forms of popular culture can bring depth and joy to people's lives, and clarify our values and identity as individuals and as a nation. Australians have a love of sport and the outdoors, and value the bonding, relaxation and insights that leisure time pursuits bring. People felt their connections with one another, with their pets and with nature; their sense of a higher purpose, their deeper beliefs and motivations; and their sense of identity and cultural heritage; can enrich their lives and our society as a whole.

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

A range of possible indicators are being considered for assessing enriched lives, but the concept is broad and difficult to summarise in any one measure. In order to capture the spirit of this idea in a measure, further development will need to be undertaken. We will continue to explore options for a suitable indicator in the future.

But that is not the whole story...

Look through the other tabs on this page to see where we have been able to track progress for the other elements of enriched lives.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

A data gap currently exists for feelings

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

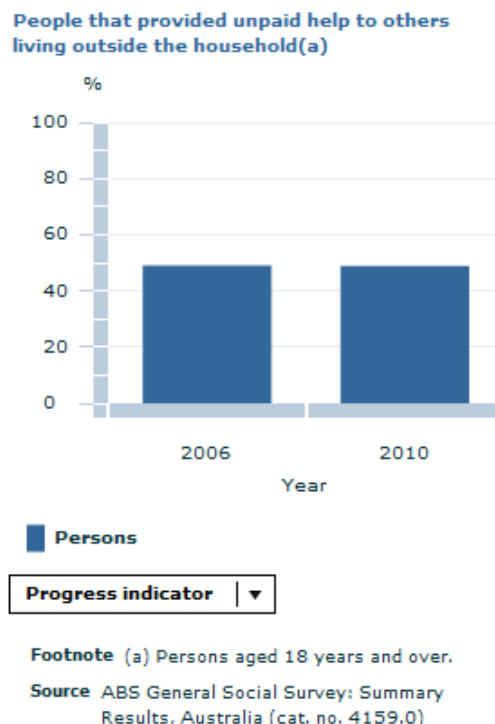
1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

In order to capture the spirit of this idea in a measure, further development will need to be undertaken.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to enriched lives than feelings. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of enriched lives have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.



Footnote(s): (a) Persons aged 18 years and over. ;(a) Persons aged 18 years and over. ;^ Estimates for 75-84 year age group in 2010 and 85 years and over age group in 2006 have relative standard errors of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution. * Estimate for 85 years and over age group in 2010 has a relative standard error between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution. (a) Persons aged 18 years and over.

Source(s): ABS General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia (cat. no. 4159.0); ABS General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia (cat. no. 4159.0); ABS General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia (cat. no. 4159.0)

Giving in Australia has not changed greatly in recent years

Indicator: Proportion of people that provided unpaid help to others living outside the household

Why is this element important?

Many aspects of life that increase well-being and make life worthwhile are not material but are intangible, such as giving to others. Many Australians felt that acts of altruism, such as providing help to others, be it material, physical or emotional support, are rewarding both for the giver and receiver and enrich the lives of both parties.

Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about enriched lives.

How have we decided things haven't changed greatly?

We have decided there has been little change in giving in Australia in recent years because the proportion of people that provided unpaid help to others living outside the household (our progress indicator for giving) hasn't moved much.

For progress, we would expect to see an increase in this indicator.

Between 2006 and 2010, the proportion of people aged 18 years and over who provided unpaid help to

others living outside their household remained steady at 49%.

Why this progress indicator?

Providing unpaid help to others tells us about giving as part of the aspiration for enriched lives.

The proportion of people that provided unpaid help to others living outside the household is considered a good measure of progress for giving because helping others and being concerned for others' well-being were thought to be important aspects of giving. Measuring the proportion of people who provide unpaid help goes some way to revealing how people are helping and showing kindness to others. Giving could also be measured by donation of time and resources to the community for the benefit of others, for example through volunteering, and the provision of care. Because this measure does not capture all of these different ways to give, this indicator has been assessed as partial. Some of the other types of giving and participating in society are used as measures for other elements in the society domain, such as community relationships and community support .

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is a partial measure of giving in Australia.



The data source is of high quality.

Let's break it down!

Between 2006 and 2010, the proportion of men and women who provided unpaid assistance to people living outside their household remained unchanged around 45% and 53% respectively. In both years the provision of unpaid help increased gradually with age up to 55–64 years and then declined for persons aged 65–74 years (44% in 2010) and further again for people aged 75–84 years (32% in 2010).

Use the drop down menu on the graph to look at other breakdowns of the indicator (graphs are also available on the further info page).

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to enriched lives than giving. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of enriched lives have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

Time and opportunity for recreation and leisure, and social and community interaction in Australia has regressed since 1997

Indicator: Average time spent on recreation and leisure, and social and community interaction

Why is this element important?

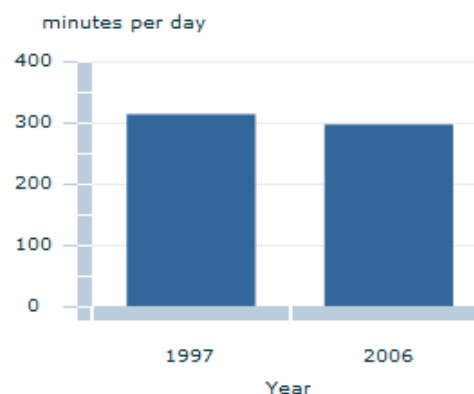
Many Australians value the bonding, relaxation and insights that leisure time pursuits bring. They also feel that their connections with one another can enrich their lives and our society as a whole. Having time and opportunity to spend on recreation and leisure, and social and community interaction, enriches people's lives.

Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about enriched lives.

How have we decided there has been regress?

We have decided that time and opportunity for recreation and leisure, and social and community interaction in Australia has regressed since 1997 because the average time spent on recreation and leisure, and social and community interaction (our progress indicator for time and opportunity) has decreased. For progress, we would expect to see an increase in this indicator.

Average time spent on recreation & leisure activities, & social & community interaction(a)



Minutes per day

Progress indicator

Footnote (a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

Source ABS How Australians Use Their Time (cat. no. 4153.0)

Footnote(s): (a) Persons aged 15 years and over.;(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.;(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.;(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

Source(s): ABS How Australians Use Their Time (cat. no. 4153.0); ABS How Australians Use Their Time (cat. no. 4153.0); ABS How Australians Use Their Time (cat. no. 4153.0); ABS How Australians Use Their Time (cat. no. 4153.0)

Between 1997 and 2006, the average time that Australians aged 15 years and over spent on recreation and leisure, and social and community interaction, decreased by about a quarter of an hour a day (5 hours and 15 minutes per day in 1997 to 4 hours and 56 minutes per day in 2006).

Why this progress indicator?

Time spent on recreation and leisure, and social and community interaction is an important part of the aspiration for enriched lives.


The average time spent on recreation and leisure, and social and community interaction is considered a good measure of progress for time and opportunity. This is because the information collected is used to examine how much time people have allocated to activities which may enrich their lives (such as sport, cultural activities, socialising, and community participation). These are the activities people may choose to undertake after attending to other activities in their life such as sleeping, paid work, education, domestic work, childcare, shopping and caring for others.

Leisure time is subjective and depends on a particular person's point of view. In fact, domestic, childcare or voluntary work may be considered to be leisure activities by some people (e.g. gardening, volunteering, playing with children). In order for people to spend more time on recreation and leisure, and social and community interaction, they would need to spend less time on other types of activities (e.g. sleep less, work less, spend less time on domestic work). In addition, the volume of time people spend on leisure and social activities does not provide any insight into the quality of that time, or the satisfaction or pleasure obtained.

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is a partial measure of time and opportunity.

 The data source is of high quality.

Let's break it down!

The decrease in the indicator between 1997 and 2006 is mainly due to a decrease in the time spent on recreation and leisure during that time period. Time spent on recreation and leisure decreased by 15 minutes per day, from 4 hours and 28 minutes in 1997, to 4 hours and 13 minutes in 2006. Time spent on social and community interaction remained about the same, at 45 minutes per day in 1997, and 43 minutes per day in 2006.

Also, audio/visual media activities accounted for around half of the time spent on recreation and leisure activities in both 1997 and 2006, and increased by 10 minutes during that time period (2 hours and 10 minutes in 1997 and 2 hours and 20 minutes in 2006).

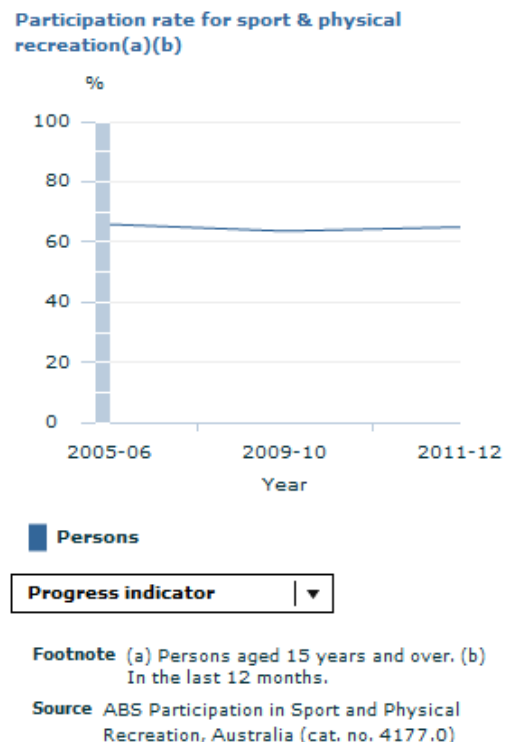
Men spent more time on recreation and leisure activities, and social and community interaction each day (24 minutes per day more) than women in both 1997 and 2006.

Use the drop down menu on the graph to look at other breakdowns of the indicator (graphs are also available on the further info page).

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to enriched lives than time and opportunity to spend on recreation and leisure, and social and community interaction. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of enriched lives have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.



Footnote(s): (a) Persons aged 15 years and over. (b) In the last 12 months.;(a) Persons aged 15 years and over. (b) In the last 12 months.;(a) Persons aged 15 years and over. (b) In the last 12 months.;(a) Persons aged 15 years and over. (b) In the last 12 months.

Source(s): ABS Participation in Sport and Physical Recreation, Australia (cat. no. 4177.0); ABS Participation in Sport and Physical Recreation, Australia (cat. no. 4177.0); ABS Participation in Sport and Physical Recreation, Australia (cat. no. 4177.0); ABS Participation in Sport and Physical Recreation, Australia (cat. no. 4177.0)

Participation in recreation and sport in Australia has not changed greatly in recent years

Indicator: Participation rate in sport and physical recreation

Why is this element important?

Australians have a love of recreation, sport and the outdoors, and value the bonding, relaxation and insights that leisure time pursuits bring.

Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about enriched lives.

How have we decided things haven't changed greatly?

We have decided there has been little change in participation in recreation and sport in Australia in recent years because the participation rate for sport and physical recreation (our progress indicator for recreation and sport) hasn't moved much.

For progress, we would expect to see an increase in this indicator.

There was no significant change in the participation rate between 2005-06 and 2011-12 (66% and 65% respectively). However, as the population increased, so too did the number participating, which grew from 10.5 million to 11.7 million between 2005-06 and 2011-12.

Why this progress indicator?

Participation in sport and physical recreation is an important part of the aspiration for enriched lives.

The participation rate in sport and physical recreation is considered a good measure of progress for recreation and sport because it includes people who choose to take part in sport and physical recreation either through organised or non-organised activities. Organised activities can be arranged through recreation clubs, sporting or non-sporting associations, through gymnasiums or a wide variety of other sporting and non-sporting arrangements.

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is a partial measure of participation in recreation and sport.



The data source is of high quality.

Let's break it down!

The participation rate in recreation and sport for men was the same in 2011-12 as it was in 2005-06, at 66%. The rate for women also saw no significant change between 2005-06 and 2011-12 (66% and 64% respectively).

The participation rate in recreation and sport remained highest in the Australian Capital Territory with 80%, while other States ranged from 62% in Queensland and South Australia to 69% in Tasmania.

Participation rates in recreation and sport also remained the same in 2005-06 and 2011-12 across age groups, with the exception of those aged 25–34 years where participation decreased from 75% to 70%.

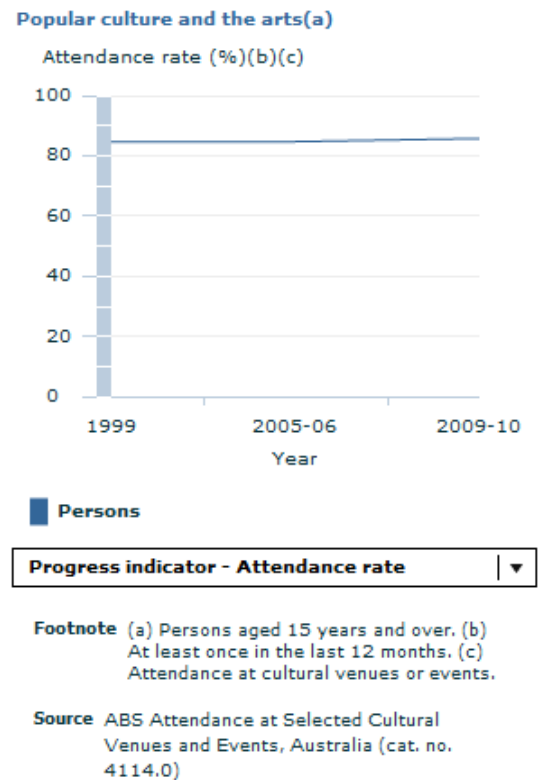
Use the drop down menu on the graph to look at other breakdowns of the indicator (graphs are also available on the further info page).

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to enriched lives than participation in recreation and sport. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of enriched lives have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

Popular culture and the arts in Australia have not changed greatly since 1999



Footnote(s): (a) Persons aged 15 years and over. (b) At least once in the last 12 months. (c) Attendance at cultural venues or events.; (a) Persons aged 15 years and over. (b) At least once in the last 12 months. (c) Attendance at cultural venues or events.; (a) Persons aged 15 years and over. (b) In the last 12 months. (c) Participation for selected cultural activities.; (a) Persons aged 15 years and over. (b) In the last 12 months. (c) Participation for selected cultural activities.

Source(s): ABS Attendance at Selected Cultural Venues and Events, Australia (cat. no. 4114.0); ABS Attendance at Selected Cultural Venues and Events, Australia (cat. no. 4114.0); ABS Participation in Selected Cultural Activities, Australia, 2010-11 (cat no. 4921.0); ABS Participation in Selected Cultural Activities, Australia, 2010-11 (cat no. 4921.0)

Indicator 1: Attendance rate for cultural events and venues

Indicator 2: Participation rate for selected cultural activities

Why is this element important?

Popular culture and the arts can bring depth and joy to people's lives, and clarify our values and identity as individuals and as a nation.

Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about enriched lives.

How have we decided things haven't changed greatly?

We have decided there has been little change in popular culture and the arts in Australia since 1999 because the two progress indicators for popular culture and the arts haven't moved much.

The attendance rate for cultural events and venues (our first progress indicator for popular culture and the arts) hasn't moved much and the participation rate for selected cultural activities (our second progress indicator for popular culture and the arts) has only one data point at this point in time.

For progress, we would expect to see both these indicators increase.

Between 1999 and 2009-10, the attendance rate at cultural venues or events didn't change significantly, 85% (or 12.6 million people) and 86% (or 17.5 million people) respectively.

Data for participation in selected cultural activities (our second progress indicator for popular culture and the arts), shows that in 2010-11 more than a quarter of people (27% or 4.7 million people) participated in at least one selected cultural activity. Activities included things such as dancing, singing or playing a musical instrument, sculpting, painting or drawing, photography and film making and performing in a drama, opera or musical to name a few.

Why these progress indicators?

Attending cultural venues or events and participating in cultural activities are important parts of the aspiration for enriched lives.

Attendance rates at cultural events and venues and participation rates at selected cultural activities are considered good measures of progress for popular culture and the arts because by directly measuring people's involvement in these recreational activities we gain an insight into how important these activities are to Australians. Even though these measures haven't changed greatly as a proportion of Australians, they support what Australians told us - that is, that these activities are an important part of many Australians' lives.

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



Both indicators are direct measures of popular culture and the arts.



Both data sources are of a high quality.

Let's break it down!

Cinemas were the most popular of all cultural venues or events, with the attendance rate remaining at 67% between 1999 and 2009-10.

People aged 15-24 years had the highest participation rate in selected cultural activities (34%), followed by those aged 25-34 years (28%). Participation rates also tended to decrease with a person's age. Overall, women had a higher participation rate (31%) than men (23%).

In 2010-11, people who were born in Australia had a higher participation rate in selected cultural activities (28%) than those born overseas (23%). This rate varied depending on the type of country in which people were born. Those born in non-main English-speaking countries had a participation rate in selected cultural activities of 18%, whereas people born in main English-speaking countries had a rate of 30%.

In 2010-11, of the 11.5 million people employed in the week prior to being interviewed, 27% (3.1 million people) participated in a selected cultural activity. People who were employed part-time had a higher participation rate in selected cultural activities (32%) than those who were employed full-time (25%). People who were unemployed had a participation rate in selected cultural activities of 32%, while those not in the labour force had a participation rate in selected cultural activities of 26%.

As we have chosen to present two progress indicators for the element of popular culture and the arts, you can use the drop down menu on the graph to look at graphs relevant to each of these indicators (graphs are also available on the further info page).

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to enriched lives than popular culture and the arts. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of enriched lives have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

A data gap currently exists for spirituality

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

A range of possible indicators are being considered for spirituality, such as religious affiliation. In order to capture the spirit of this idea in a measure, further development will need to be undertaken. We will continue to explore options for a suitable indicator in the future.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to enriched lives than spirituality. Click through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of enriched lives have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.



Further info for enriched lives

Need some more info on the enriched lives theme? Hopefully this page can point you in the right direction

Contents

Useful links

Glossary

References

Graph summary

This page contains the following further information for enriched lives:

- Useful links
- Glossary
- References
- Graph summary

USEFUL LINKS

ABS Census of Population and Housing

ABS Topics @ a Glance - Family and Community Statistics

ABS Topics @ a Glance - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

ABS Topics @ a Glance - Sport and Physical Recreation

ABS Topics @ a Glance - Culture

ABS General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia, 2010 (cat. no. 4159.0)

ABS How Australians Use Their Time, 2006 (cat. no. 4153.0)

ABS Participation in Sport and Physical Recreation, Australia, 2011-12 (cat. no. 4177.0)

ABS Attendance at Selected Cultural Venues and Events, Australia, 2009-10 (cat. no. 4114.0)

ABS Participation in Selected Cultural Activities, Australia, 2010-11 (cat. no. 4921.0)

ABS National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing: Summary of Results, 2007 (cat. no. 4326.0)

ABS Cultural Diversity in Australia - Reflecting a Nation: Stories from the 2011 Census, 2012-13 (cat. no. 2071.0)

ABS Spectator Attendance at Sporting Events, 2009-10 (cat. no. 4174.0)

GLOSSARY

Activities

The description of particular tasks that were being done during a person's day.

Attendance rate

For any group, this is calculated by expressing the number of people who attended a venue or event at least once during the year as a percentage of the population aged 15 years and over in the same group.

Cultural activity

A cultural activity has been defined as an activity in which a person has participated, which has not been done for secondary or tertiary studies. It excludes activities with no creative aspect such as mending or repairing clothes and home do-it-yourself (DIY) projects. Respondents were asked whether they participated in each of the selected cultural activities listed below, in the 12 months before interview:

- drama, comedy, opera or musical, including rehearsals (including acting for stage or film, street theatre and stand-up comedy);
- cabaret or variety act, including rehearsals (including circus performance/acts, rehearsals and classes specific to the performance and informal practice or preparation for a performance);
- singing or playing a musical instrument as a soloist or as part of a band, choir or orchestra, including rehearsals and classes (including singing for which the respondent has practised or taken lessons, and singing or playing in a public forum with an audience e.g. church choir, performing at an aged care facility or retirement home. Excludes informal or impromptu singing such as around the home or

karaoke;

- dancing, including rehearsals or classes (including dancing for which the respondent has practised or taken lessons. Excludes dancing for another performance such as singing in a band and informal or impromptu dancing such as at weddings or nightclubs);
- writing song lyrics or mixing or composing music, including digital composition;
- writing any fiction or non-fiction such as stories, poetry or scripts (including blogs but excluding Twitter, Facebook and Myspace profile updates);
- sculpting, painting, drawing or cartooning, including digital pieces;
- printmaking, screen printing or etching;
- textile crafts, jewellery making, paper crafts or wood crafts (including knitting, embroidery, quilting, dress making or tailoring, cross stitch or tapestries, appliqué, beading, scrapbooking, making cards and collage. Excludes mending or repairing clothes and maintenance and repair);
- glass crafts, pottery, ceramics or mosaics;
- photography, film-making or editing, apart from personal events (excluding acting in a film, scriptwriting and use of video or DVD as a tool in another activity);
- designing websites, computer games or interactive software (excluding contributing to websites designed by other people or organisations, posting videos on YouTube, creating profiles on Myspace or Facebook or creating pages on similar websites. Also excludes creating web journals or blogs);
- fashion design, interior or graphic design (excluding home DIY projects); and
- other digital art or craft not already reported.

Employed

All persons aged 15 years and over who, during the reference week:

- worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind in a job or business, or on a farm (comprising employed, employers and own account workers); or
- worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business or on a farm (i.e. contributing family workers); or
- were employed who had a job but were not at work and were:
- away from work for less than four weeks up to the end of the reference week; or
- away from work for more than four weeks up to the end of the reference week and received pay for some or all of the four week period to the end of the reference week; or
- away from work as a standard work or shift arrangement; or
- on strike or locked out; or
- on workers' compensation and expected return to their job; or
- were employed or own account workers, who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.

Full-time workers

Employed persons who usually worked 35 hours or more a week (in all jobs) and those who, although usually working less than 35 hours a week, worked 35 hours or more during the reference week.

Household

One or more persons usually resident in the same private dwelling.

Labour force status

A classification of the civilian population aged 15 years and over into employed, unemployed or not in the labour force, as defined. The definitions conform closely to the international standard definitions adopted by the International Conferences of Labour Statisticians.

Main English-speaking countries

The list of main English-speaking countries (MESC) provided here is not an attempt to classify countries on the basis of whether or not English is the predominant or official language of each country. It is a list of the main countries from which Australia receives, or has received, significant numbers of overseas settlers who are likely to speak English. These countries comprise the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland, New Zealand, Canada, South Africa and the United States of America. Non-MESC describes people originating from countries where a language other than English is likely to be spoken by migrants. It is important to note that being from a non main English-speaking country does not imply a lack of

proficiency in English.

Not in labour force

Persons who were not in the categories employed or unemployed as defined.

Participation rate

The number of people who participated in an activity at least once during the year as a percentage of the population aged 15 years and over.

Part-time workers

Employed persons who usually worked less than 35 hours a week (in all jobs) and either did so during the reference week, or were not at work in the reference week.

Recreation and leisure activities

A major activity classification group which includes activities such as playing sport, walking, participating in games or hobbies, reading and watching television. Also included is other free time such as relaxing, thinking, smoking and drinking alcohol.

Social and community interaction

A major activity classification group which includes activities relating to social interaction participation such as attending a concert, a library or amusement park. Also included are attending sports events, participating in religious ceremonies and community participation such as attendance at meetings.

Unemployed

Persons aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the reference week, and:

- had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week and were available for work in the reference week; or
- were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the reference week and could have started in the reference week if the job had been available then.

There are no references for this theme

Click on the links below to be taken to a summary of the graphs from the corresponding tab within the Enriched lives theme:

Giving

Time and opportunity

Recreation and sport

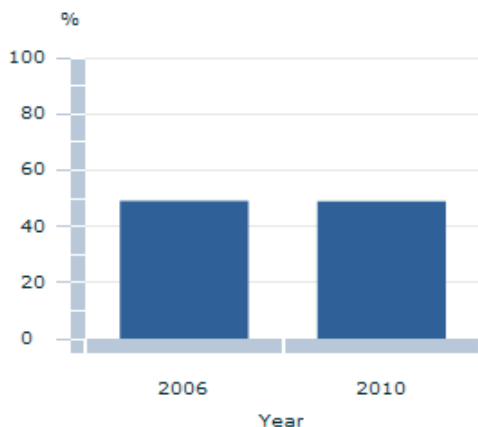
Popular culture and the arts

GIVING

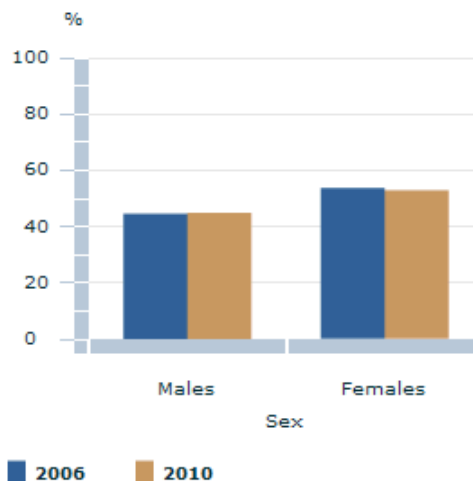
People that provided unpaid help to others living outside the household(a)

Progress indicator

...by sex

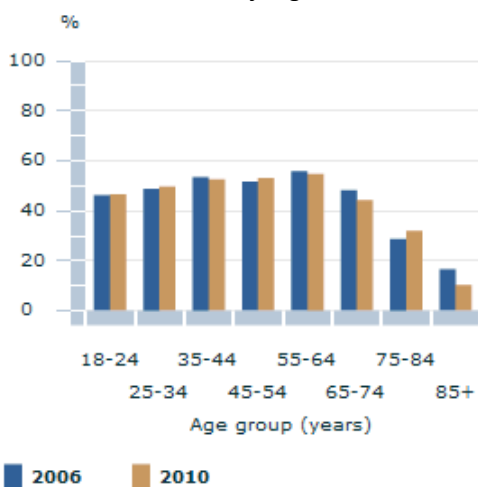


Footnote:
(a) Persons aged 18 years and over.
Source:
ABS General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia (cat. no. 4159.0)



Footnote:
(a) Persons aged 18 years and over.
Source:
ABS General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia (cat. no. 4159.0)

...by age



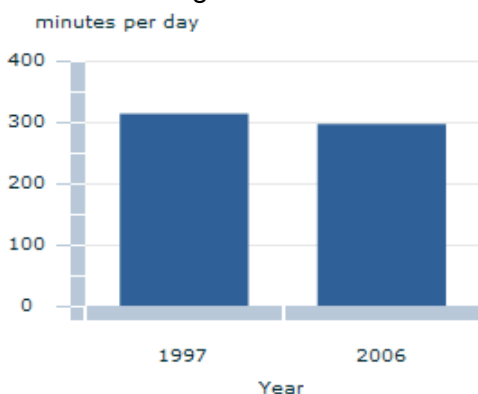
Footnote:
^ Estimates for 75-84 year age group in 2010 and 85 years and over age group in 2006 have relative standard errors of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution.
* Estimate for 85 years and over age group in 2010 has a relative standard error between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution.
(a) Persons aged 18 years and over.
Source:
ABS General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia (cat. no. 4159.0)

[Back to top](#)

TIME AND OPPORTUNITY

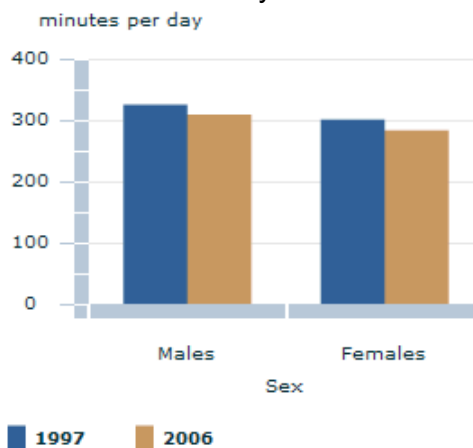
Average time spent on recreation and leisure activities, and social and community interaction(a)

Progress indicator



Footnote:
(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.
Source:
ABS How Australians Use Their Time (cat. no. 4153.0)

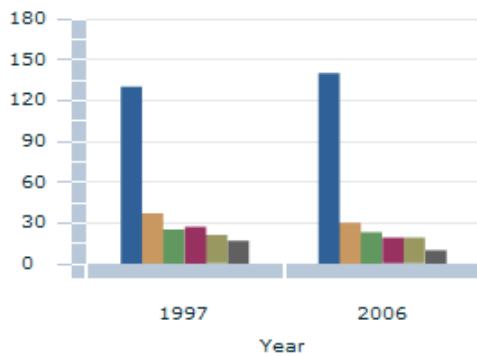
...by sex



Footnote:
(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.
Source:

...by recreation and leisure activities

minutes per day



- Audio/visual media
- Talking or corresponding
- Reading
- Sport and outdoor activity
- Other free time
- Games, hobbies, arts, crafts

Footnote:

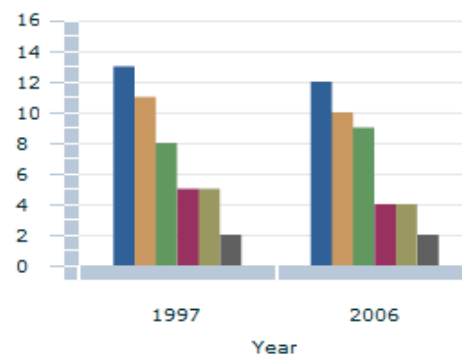
(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

Source:

ABS How Australians Use Their Time (cat. no. 4153.0)

...by social and community interaction

minutes per day



- Associated travel
- Socialising
- Community participation
- Entertainment & cultural venues
- Religious/ritual activities
- Attendance at sports events

Footnote:

(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

Source:

ABS How Australians Use Their Time (cat. no. 4153.0)

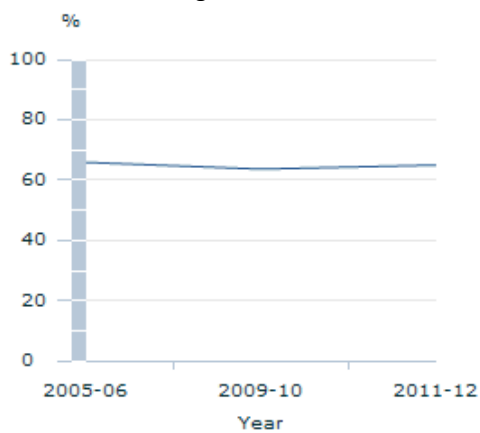
[Back to top](#)

RECREATION AND SPORT

Participation rate for sport & physical recreation(a)(b)

Progress indicator

...by sex



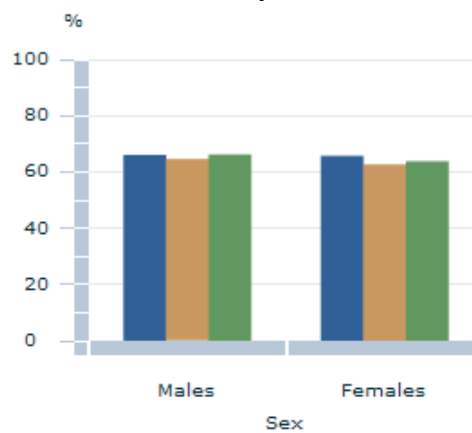
Footnote:

(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

(b) In the last 12 months.

Source:

ABS Participation in Sport and Physical Recreation, Australia (cat. no. 4177.0)



- 2005-06
- 2009-10
- 2011-12

Footnote:

(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

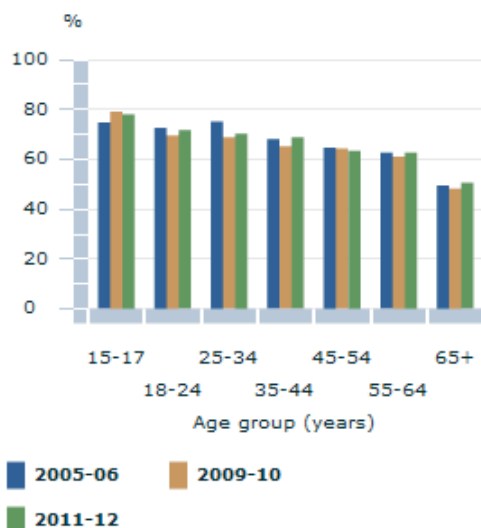
(b) In the last 12 months.

Source:

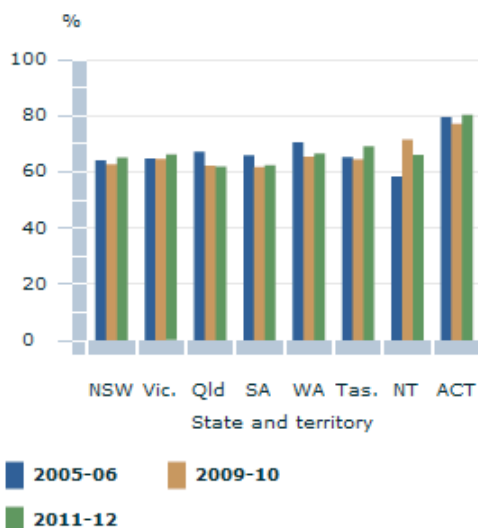
ABS Participation in Sport and Physical Recreation, Australia (cat. no. 4177.0)

...by age

...by state and territory



Footnote:
 (a) Persons aged 15 years and over.
 (b) In the last 12 months.
 Source:
 ABS Participation in Sport and Physical Recreation, Australia (cat. no. 4177.0)



Footnote:
 (a) Persons aged 15 years and over.
 (b) In the last 12 months.
 Source:
 ABS Participation in Sport and Physical Recreation, Australia (cat. no. 4177.0)

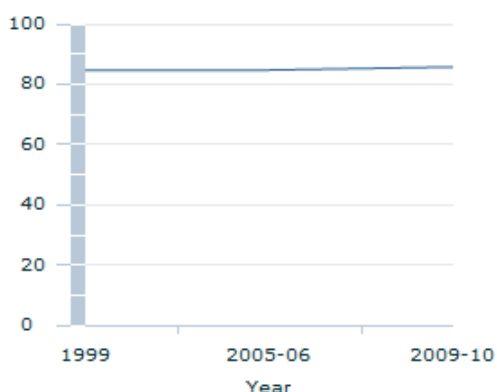
[Back to top](#)

POPULAR CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Popular culture and the arts(a)

Progress indicator - Attendance rate

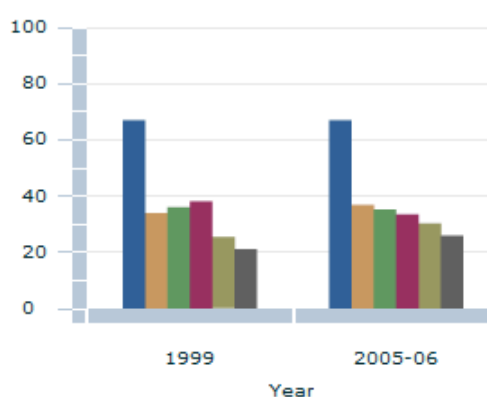
Attendance rate (%) (b)(c)



Footnote:
 (a) Persons aged 15 years and over.
 (b) At least once in the last 12 months.
 (c) Attendance at cultural venues or events.
 Source:
 ABS Attendance at Selected Cultural Venues and Events, Australia (cat. no. 4114.0)

Attendance rate, by venue or event

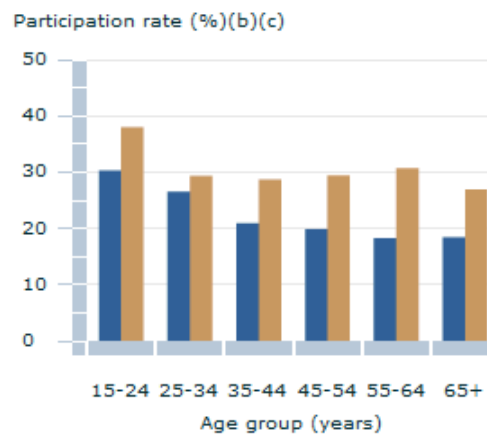
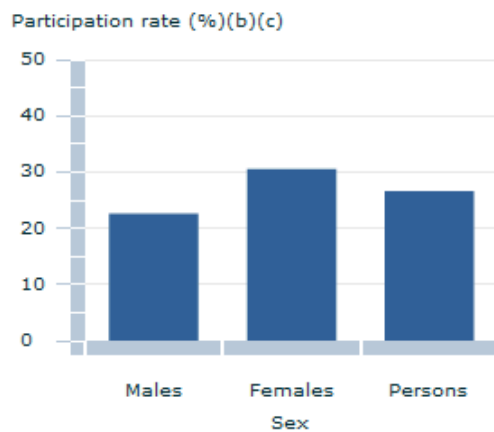
Attendance rate (%) (b)(c)



Footnote:
 (a) Persons aged 15 years and over.
 (b) At least once in the last 12 months.
 (c) Attendance at cultural venues or events.
 Source:
 ABS Attendance at Selected Cultural Venues and Events, Australia (cat. no. 4114.0)

Progress indicator - Participation rate - 2010-11

Participation rate, by age - 2010-11



Footnote:

(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

(b) In the last 12 months.

(c) Participation for selected cultural activities.

Source:

ABS Participation in Selected Cultural Activities, Australia, 2010-11 (cat no. 4921.0)

■ Males ■ Females

Footnote:

(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

(b) In the last 12 months.

(c) Participation for selected cultural activities.

Source:

ABS Participation in Selected Cultural Activities, Australia, 2010-11 (cat no. 4921.0)

[Back to top](#)



Economy

Australians aspire to a strong economy that provides the opportunities and resources to support sustained individual and societal wellbeing

Measures of Australia's Progress (MAP) presents a view of Australian life divided into four main areas: society, economy, environment and governance. During our latest consultation, we asked Australians about what is important to them for national progress for each of these areas. For the economy, they identified the aspects they felt were most important and what they thought Australia should aspire to (or aim for) to achieve progress. We have sought to provide indicators that will capture the spirit of, and measure, these aspirations for economic progress. The statement at the top of this page is the overall aspiration Australians had for the economy.

In the context of MAP, the economy is viewed as a system that enables and supports social progress and wellbeing. It is the system of markets (e.g. goods, money and labour markets) which can be affected by market controls (e.g. taxes and interest rates). These together generate production, stimulate consumption, and balance economic activities, so that Australia's population has access to income and wealth (in the form of assets) and the opportunity to consume goods and services.

What did Australians say?

Australians are interested in more than the productivity of our economy. Many people expressed aspirations about opportunities and jobs. They said it is important for the economy to provide business and employment opportunities, along with safe and satisfying jobs that deliver sufficient income to support improved standards of living. Many people emphasised the importance of an efficient and prosperous economy to support people's wellbeing and that this is enhanced through obtaining a fair share of economic prosperity.

People said the Australian economy should be resilient and sustainable. They wanted the economy to be resilient to shocks, such as natural disasters and economic downturns, with broad economic stability and an ability to manage risk. Sustainability of the economy was seen as very important, meaning that the current needs of Australians are met, without compromising the needs of future generations. People also acknowledged Australia's role in the global economy, not just as a trading partner but as a source and seeker of ideas and knowledge, and as a migration and tourism destination. All of these aspects were considered important for Australia's progress.

Main themes of economy

Our recent consultation agreed on seven main themes Australians thought were important for economic progress and MAP provides progress indicators for these themes and their elements. As there are many newly emerging areas of interest from the consultation process, we don't have measures for all of these. However, MAP is an evolving product and we will seek to fill data gaps as suitable measures become available.

To view the economic measures included in MAP, click on the themes below to see how Australia is progressing in that area:

- Opportunities - Australians aspire to have the economic opportunities they need to thrive
- Jobs - Australians aspire to an economy that provides them with quality jobs
- Prosperity - Australians aspire to a prosperous and efficient economy
- A resilient economy - Australians aspire to an economy that is resilient to shocks and which allows people to manage risk
- Enhancing living standards - Australians aspire to an economy that sustains and enhances living standards into the future
- Fair outcomes - Australians aspire to an economy that supports fair outcomes
- International economic engagement - Australians aspire to fruitful economic engagement with the rest of the world

This page first published 14 November 2013, last updated 8 May 2014



Opportunities

Australians aspire to have the economic opportunities they need to thrive

Overall progress?**Overall progress?**

Employment opportunities**Employment**

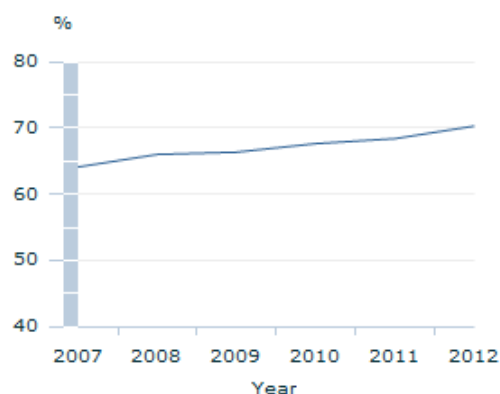
Business opportunities**Business**

Standard of living**Standard of living**

Capabilities**Capabilities**

Reduced complexity**Reduced complexity**

Persons with a Certificate III or above or employed in a skilled occupation(a)



Persons

Headline progress indicator

Footnote (a) Persons aged 20-64 years.

Source ABS data available on request, 2007-2012 Surveys of Education and Work

Footnote(s): (a) Persons aged 20-64 years.;(a) Persons aged 20-64 years.
Source(s): ABS data available on request, 2007-2012 Surveys of Education and Work; ABS data available on request, 2007-2012 Surveys of Education and Work



Economic opportunities in Australia have progressed in recent years

Indicator: Proportion of persons with a Certificate III or above, or employed in a skilled occupation

Why is this theme important?

Australians told us that they believed it important that the economy increase the wellbeing of Australians. This meant people having the opportunities, means and ability to have a high standard of living and lead the kind of life they want and choose to live. This may include people having employment or business opportunities, income, services, skills and knowledge to secure their wellbeing and the wellbeing of their loved ones. At the same time, people thought that the economy, or aspects of it, should not represent barriers in the pursuit of wellbeing, for example, by making information or procedures unnecessarily complex or difficult.

How have we decided there has been progress?

We have decided that economic opportunities in Australia have progressed in recent years because the proportion of persons with a Certificate III or above, or employed in a skilled occupation (our headline progress indicator for economic opportunities) has increased.

In 2007, 64% of the population aged 20-64 years had a Certificate III or above, or were employed in a skilled occupation. By 2012, this proportion had increased to 70%, with year-on-year growth seen in the

proportion for each of the five intervening years.

Why this headline progress indicator?

The relationship between skills and employment represents an important part of the aspiration for economic opportunities.

The proportion of persons who have at least a Certificate III or who are employed in a skilled occupation is considered a good measure of progress for economic opportunities. This is because it measures the opportunity to gain a basic skill level and also captures how well the economy provides skilled job opportunities to people. By looking at the number of skilled people, the indicator provides a measure of the actual skill level of Australians and by including Certificate III or above, the indicator relates to vocational or higher education qualifications. Skills are important in supporting people to partake in job opportunities, as well as the potential to engage in skilled labour. Working in a skilled occupation is likely to give people the means and opportunity (through income, skills and knowledge) to have a reasonable standard of living, while a skilled qualification gives people the opportunity to enter into a skilled occupation.

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is a partial measure of the concept of economic opportunities as described above (based on Aspirations for our Nation).



The data source is of high quality.

Let's break it down!

The proportion of women aged 20-64 years with a Certificate III or above, or employed in a skilled occupation is lower than that of male counterparts. However, the proportion has grown more quickly for women than for men over the past 5 years. Between 2007 and 2012, the proportion for women grew 9 percentage points (from 57% to 66%) whereas for men during the same period, the proportion grew only 3 percentage points (from 71% to 74%).

Use the drop down menu on the graph to look at other breakdowns of the indicator (graphs are also available on the further info page).

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to economic opportunities than a person's skills or employment in a skilled occupation. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of economic opportunities have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

Employment opportunities in Australia have not changed greatly in recent years.

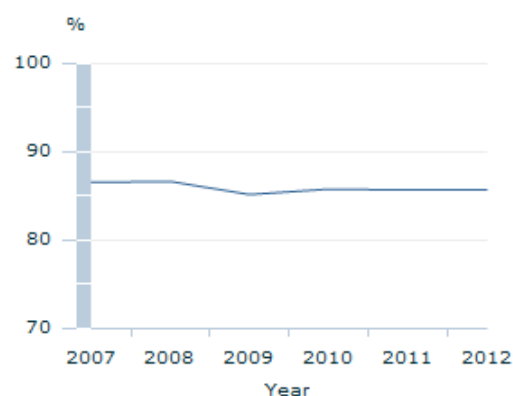
Indicator: Employment as a proportion of people who are in work or want to work

Why is this element important?

Employment opportunities is an important aspect of wellbeing both for individuals and societies. In economic terms, work benefits individuals by offering them security through a source of income. Work also benefits people by enhancing their skills, building social networks and contributing to a person's sense of identity. Within society, work is critical in ensuring that the goods, services and wider social conditions that benefit all members of the community are generated. Therefore, it is important that the economy provide employment opportunities to people to support wellbeing.

Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about economic opportunities.

Employment as a proportion of people who are in work or want to work(a)(b)



■ Employment percentage

Progress indicator ▼

Footnote (a) Persons ages 15 years and over. (b) Data is for September.

Source ABS data available on request, Persons Not in the Labour Force

Footnote(s): (a) Persons ages 15 years and over. (b) Data is for September.;(a) Persons aged 15 years and over. (b) Data is for September.

Source(s): ABS data available on request, Persons Not in the Labour Force; ABS data available on request, Persons Not in the Labour Force

How have we decided things haven't changed greatly?

We have decided that employment opportunities in Australia have not changed greatly in recent years because employment as a proportion of people who are in work or want to work (our progress indicator for employment opportunities) hasn't moved much.

For there to be improvement in employment opportunities in Australia, we would expect to see discernible growth in employment as a proportion of people who are in work or want to work. When viewed in the context of the number of people wanting to work, the proportion of the Australian population in employment has not changed greatly.

In 2007, 87% of the population that were in work or wanted to work were employed. Five years later in 2012, the rate was similar at 86% with only minor downward movement in the rate recorded during intervening years in the wake of the global financial crisis. As a population, there were 1.9 million Australians in 2012 who wanted to work but were not employed.

Why this progress indicator?

Being able to find work tells us about employment opportunities as part of the aspiration for economic opportunities.

Employment as a proportion of people who are in work or want to work is considered a good measure of progress for employment opportunities because it measures whether those who want to work are able to do so. Examining employment in relation to all people who are in work or want to work can be useful to understand how well people's aspirations to work are being met in the economy. In addition to including people who are employed and unemployed, the measure includes people who are not in the labour force who report that they want to work, i.e. that they have a desire or aspiration for work, but it excludes those not in the labour force who are permanently retired, not able to work and those who do not want to work.

A high proportion indicates that businesses, governments and other sectors of the economy are providing opportunities for employment to those who want to work. A high proportion also indicates that the productive potential of Australians is being harnessed to support economic production and that unutilised labour capacity is being minimised.

Quality assessment (see key)



This indicator is a direct measure of employment opportunities.



The data source is of high quality.

Let's break it down!

Between 2007 and 2012, employment as a proportion of people who are in work or want to work for women was consistently lower than for men (between 5-8 percentage points). In 2012, this equated to there being 846,000 men and 1,096,000 women who wanted to work but were not employed.

Across the states and territories, Tasmania and Queensland saw a significant decrease in the proportion of people who are in work or want to work between 2007 and 2012 (84% to 81% and 88% to 86%, respectively). There were no other significant changes for the other states and territories during this period. Between 2007 and 2012, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory had the highest proportion of people who were in work or wanted to work, while Tasmania had the lowest.

Use the drop down menu on the graph to look at other breakdowns of the indicator (graphs are also available on the further info page).

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to economic opportunities than employment opportunities. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of economic opportunities have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.



Rate(b)

Progress indicator

Footnote (a) Entries relative to total operating businesses at start of financial year. (b) A spike evident in 2009-10 is due to a change in ABS methodology.

Source ABS Counts of Australian Businesses, Including Entries and Exits (cat. no. 8165.0)

Footnote(s): (a) Entries relative to total operating businesses at start of financial year. (b) A spike evident in 2009-10 is due to a change in ABS methodology. ;(a) Entries relative to total operating businesses at start of financial year.

Source(s): ABS Counts of Australian Businesses, Including Entries and Exits (cat. no. 8165.0); ABS Counts of Australian Businesses, Including Entries and Exits (cat. no. 8165.0)

Business opportunities in Australia have regressed since 2003-04

Indicator: New business entry rate

Why is this element important?

An economy that supports business opportunities and entrepreneurial endeavours is important to social progress. Through growth in business activity, individuals in society may benefit through increased productivity, economic performance and employment opportunities. A supportive business environment may also promote the development of new or innovative products to meet evolving consumer demand. The extent to which new businesses are entering the market is a reflection of barriers to entry, such as business regulation and competition, but is also influenced by broader economic conditions which may limit business opportunities.

Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about economic opportunities.

How have we decided there has been regress?

We have decided business opportunities in Australia have regressed since 2003-04 because the new business entry rate (our progress indicator for business opportunities) has decreased.

The new businesses entry rate in Australia has trended downwards, decreasing from 17% to 14% between 2003-04 and 2011-12.

Why this progress indicator?

The new business entry rate tells us about business opportunities as part of the aspiration for economic opportunities.

The new business entry rate is considered a good measure of progress for business opportunities because it measures the rate at which new businesses are entering the market relative to existing businesses. A rise in the new business entry rate indicates that opportunities for new businesses to enter the market are increasing, due to improved economic conditions or reduced barriers to entry. The indicator does not include business exits; however, it is important to note, that a business exit event does not necessarily equate to a business 'failure'.

Quality assessment (see key)



This indicator is a partial measure of business opportunities.



The data source is of high quality.

Let's break it down!

The national decline in the new business entry rate between 2003-04 and 2011-12 was reflected in each state and territory in Australia, with the decline being more marked in some states and territories than others. Notably, the largest decreases were found in Queensland and Tasmania where the rate fell by 5.2 and 4.9 percentage points respectively between 2003-04 and 2011-12.

Use the drop down menu on the graph to look at other breakdowns of the indicator (graphs are also available on the further info page).

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to economic opportunities than business opportunities. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of economic opportunities have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

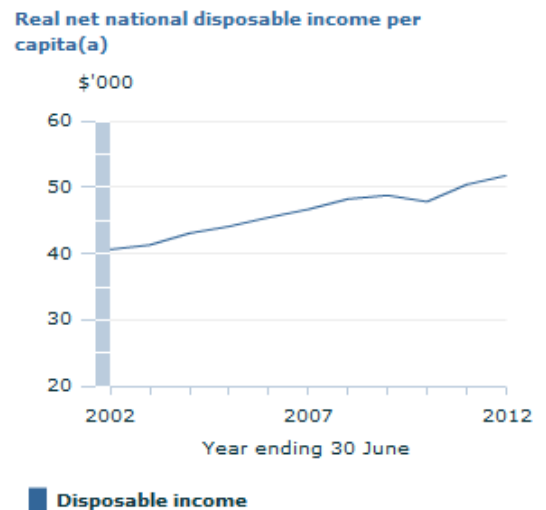
The standard of living in Australia has progressed over the last decade

Indicator: Real net national disposable income per capita

Why is this element important?

Standard of living is an important aspect of economic opportunities as it determines people's ability to consume goods and services thereby supporting their wellbeing. In order to maintain a high level of wellbeing, people must consume a sufficient quantity of goods, such as food and clothing, and services, such as education and health care. When standards of living are low, there is an increased likelihood that people will be unable to afford these items, impacting on their quality of life. In the context of economic opportunities, low living standards may impact the ability of people to find jobs, undertake education, or pursue other opportunities to improve their wellbeing.

Source(s): ABS Australian System of National Accounts, 2011-12 (cat. no. 5204.0)



Footnote (a) Reference year is 2010-11.

Source ABS Australian System of National Accounts, 2011-12 (cat. no. 5204.0)

Footnote(s): (a) Reference year is 2010-11.

Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about economic opportunities.

How have we decided there has been progress?

We have decided that the standard of living in Australia has progressed over the last decade because real net national disposable income per capita (our progress indicator for standard of living) has increased.

During the decade 2001-02 to 2011-12, Australia's real net national disposable income grew from \$40,600 per person to \$51,800 per person in 2010-11 dollars. Year-on-year growth of around 2-3% was consistent for most of the decade, with only the 2009-10 financial year recording a decline in real net national disposable income per capita (-2%).

The recent strong growth in Australia's real net national disposable income per capita highlights a significant divergence which has taken place between Australian real income and domestic production growth rates over recent years. On an annual basis between 2001-02 and 2011-12, gross domestic product (GDP) per capita increased by 1.5% on average while real net national disposable income per capita increased by 2.5% on average. This divergence is significant as the real income growth generally tracks GDP growth over the long term. However, Australia's terms of trade have nearly doubled between 2001-02 and 2011-12 and the resulting trading gain has driven tremendous growth in real domestic income relative to domestic production of goods and services.

Why this progress indicator?

National income tells us about the standard of living as part of the aspiration for economic opportunities.

Real net national disposable income per capita is considered a good measure of progress for standard of living because it measures Australians' capacity to engage in the economy through the consumption of goods and services. This measure is one of a series of real incomes which go beyond GDP to provide a more comprehensive picture of economic welfare and the standard of living. Increasing real income allows Australian residents to consume a greater quantity of food, clothing, housing, utilities, health care, education and other goods and services. Moreover, growth in real income not only has benefits for current consumption, but can also be used to generate future income and support future consumption as well. This is because income can also be used to accumulate wealth and assets which can offer people benefits both now and in the future.

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is a direct measure of the standard of living in Australia.

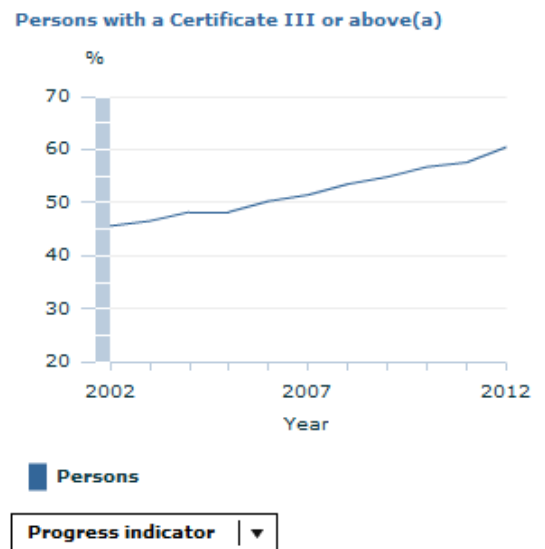


The data source is of high quality.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to economic opportunities than standard of living. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of economic opportunities have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.



Footnote (a) Persons aged 25-64 years.

Source ABS data available on request, 2002-2012 Surveys of Education and Work

Footnote(s): (a) Persons aged 25-64 years.;(a) Persons aged 25-64 years.

Source(s): ABS data available on request, 2002-2012 Surveys of Education and Work ; ABS data available on request, 2002-2012 Surveys of Education and Work

Capabilities in Australia have progressed over the last decade

Indicator: Proportion of persons with a Certificate III level qualification or above

Why is this element important?

Capabilities are an important aspect of economic opportunities as they provide a means by which individuals can realise their potential and gain access to opportunities to further their wellbeing. As economies like Australia become increasingly advanced, the need for skills and capabilities to understand and engage with the economy becomes critical. Without the necessary skills and capabilities, the opportunity for individuals to derive benefit from and contribute towards a thriving economy is reduced, limiting their capacity to improve their wellbeing.

Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about economic opportunities.

How have we decided there has been progress?

We have decided that capabilities in Australia have progressed over the decade because the proportion of persons with a Certificate III level qualification or above (our progress indicator for capabilities) has increased.

Over the decade to 2012, the proportion of persons aged 25-64 with a qualification at a Certificate III or above increased 15 percentage points from 46% in 2002 to 61% in 2012.

Why this progress indicator?

The proportion of persons with a Certificate III or above tells us about capabilities as part of the aspiration for economic opportunities.

The proportion of persons with a Certificate III or above is considered a good measure of progress for capabilities because it measures the skill level of the Australian population. With jobs in advanced economies such as Australia requiring increasingly skilled labour, an increase in the educational attainment of the population is important in order to maximise the employment opportunities of the population. The proportion of persons with a Certificate III or above (a vocational or higher education qualification) is considered a good measure of this, capturing the extent to which the population holds, what is increasingly considered as, a base level of skills.

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is a partial measure of capabilities.



The data source is of high quality.

Let's break it down!

Growth in the proportion of persons with a Certificate III level qualification or above is apparent for both men and women, with the proportion growing faster for women than for men. Between 2002 and 2012, the proportion of persons with a Certificate III or above grew 20 percentage points for women (from 38% to 58%) and 10 percentage points for men (from 53% to 63%). This indicates the increasing education attainment of working age women is the larger contributor towards increase in the overall rate.

Use the drop down menu on the graph to look at other breakdowns of the indicator (graphs are also available on the further info page).

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to economic opportunities than capabilities. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of economic opportunities have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

A data gap currently exists for reduced complexity

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

A range of possible indicators are being considered for reduced complexity, but no single measure was considered suitable for this indicator. A suitable measure should provide an indication of the level of complexity present within the economy which may constrain opportunities. However, there are difficulties associated with the measurement of complexity and its direct effects. For example, a reduction in the volume of legislation might indicate that the level of complexity has decreased but it may in fact produce the opposite effect. Other measures such as the uptake in e-Tax by the Australian public are at best partial measures of the overall level of complexity present within the economy. A fully comprehensive indicator should capture a range of influences on complexity, such as compliance and administration costs imposed by governments, and provide an unequivocal indication of progress in this regard.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to economic opportunities than reduced complexity. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of economic opportunities have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

This page first published 14 November 2013, last updated 8 May 2014



Further info for opportunities

Need some more info on the opportunities theme? Hopefully this page can point you in the right direction

Contents

Useful links

Glossary

References

Graph summary

This page contains the following further information for opportunities:

- Useful links
- Glossary
- References
- Graph summary

USEFUL LINKS

ABS Topics @ a Glance - Education and Training

ABS Topics @ a Glance - Labour

ABS Topics @ a Glance - Business Demography

ABS Topics @ a Glance - National Accounts

ABS Australian Demographic Statistics (cat. no. 3101.0)

ABS Australian Labour Market Statistics (cat. no. 6105.0)

ABS Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product (cat. no. 5206.0)

ABS Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED), 2001 (cat. no. 1272.0)

ABS Australian System of National Accounts (cat. no. 5204.0)

ABS ANZSCO -- Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, 2013, Version 1.2 (cat. no. 1220.0)

ABS Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits (cat. no. 8165.0)

ABS Education and Work, Australia (cat. no. 6227.0)

ABS Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0)

ABS Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6220.0)

GLOSSARY

Business

A business is defined as 'a legal entity engaging in productive activity and/or other forms of economic activity in the market sector'. Such entities accumulate assets on their own account and/or hold assets on behalf of others, and may incur liabilities. Excluded are the economic activities of individuals (except where individuals engage in productive activity either as sole traders or in partnership) and entities mainly engaged in hobby activities'. For more information on the ABS definition of a business, users should refer to Information Paper: A Statistical View of Counts of Businesses in Australia (cat. no. 8162.0).

Business Entry

A business which has newly registered for an ABN and which has a GST role allocated. Business entry rates are calculated by taking the total business entries during a financial year divided by the total businesses operating at the start of the financial year, multiplied by 100.

Employed

People aged 15 years and over who, during the reference week:

- worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind in a job or business, or on a farm (comprising employees, employers and own account workers); or
- worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business or on a farm (i.e. contributing family

workers); or

- were employees who had a job but were not at work and were:
- away from work for less than four weeks up to the end of the reference week; or
- away from work for more than four weeks up to the end of the reference week and received pay for some or all of the four week period to the end of the reference week; or
- away from work as a standard work or shift arrangement; or
- on strike or locked out; or
- on workers' compensation and expected to return to their job; or
- were employers or own account workers who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.

Estimated resident population (ERP)

The estimated resident population (ERP) is the official measure of the population of Australia. It is based on the concept of usual residence. For the purpose of ERP, a person is regarded as a usual resident if they have been (or are expected to be) residing in Australia for a period of 12 months or more. As such, it refers to all people, regardless of nationality, citizenship or legal status who usually live in Australia, with the exception of foreign diplomatic personnel and their families.

Labour force

For any group, persons who were employed or unemployed, as defined.

Level of education

Level of education is a function of the quality and quantity of learning involved in an educational activity. It is categorised according to the Australian Standard Classification of Education, 2001 (cat. no. 1272.0) Level of education classification.

Non-school qualification

Non-school qualifications are awarded for educational attainments other than those of pre-primary, primary or secondary education. They include qualifications at the Postgraduate Degree level, Master Degree level, Graduate Diploma and Graduate Certificate level, Bachelor Degree level, Advanced Diploma and Diploma level, and Certificates I, II, III and IV levels. Non-school qualifications may be attained concurrently with school qualifications.

Persons in the labour force

People who were classified as being in the labour force, that is, either employed or unemployed.

Persons not in the labour force

People who were not in the categories 'employed' or 'unemployed' as defined.

Real net national disposable income (RNNDI)

Calculated by:

- taking real gross domestic income;
- deducting real incomes payable to the rest of the world;
- adding real incomes receivable from the rest of the world; and
- deducting the volume measure of consumption of fixed capital.

Real incomes payable and receivable are calculated by dividing the nominal income flows by the implicit price deflator for gross national expenditure. In the derivation of the aggregate, all of the adjustments are made using the chain volume aggregation method used to derive all of the ABS chain volume estimates.

Real net national disposable income (RNNDI) per capita

The ratio of RNNDI to the estimated resident population (ERP) of Australia. Population estimates use data published in the quarterly publication ABS Australian Demographic Statistics (cat. no. 3101.0). See

'Real net national disposable income (RNNDI)'.

Skill level of occupation

Skill level is defined as a function of the range and complexity of the set of tasks performed in a particular occupation. The greater the range and complexity of the set of tasks, the greater the skill level of an occupation.

Skill level is measured operationally by:

- the level or amount of formal education and training;
- the amount of previous experience in a related occupation, and
- the amount of on-the-job training required to competently perform the set of tasks required for that occupation. For further information, see ANZSCO -- Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, 2013, Version 1.2 (cat. no. 1220.0)

Unemployed

People aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the reference week, and:

- had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week and were available for work in the reference week; or
- were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the reference week and could have started in the reference week if the job had been available then.

Wanted to work

People not in the labour force who were not actively looking for work who answered 'yes' or 'maybe' when asked if they would like a job, as well as those people not in the labour force who were actively looking. It is assumed those people actively looking want a job.

There are no references for this theme

Click on the links below to be taken to a summary of the graphs from the corresponding tab within the opportunities theme:

Overall progress?

Employment

Business

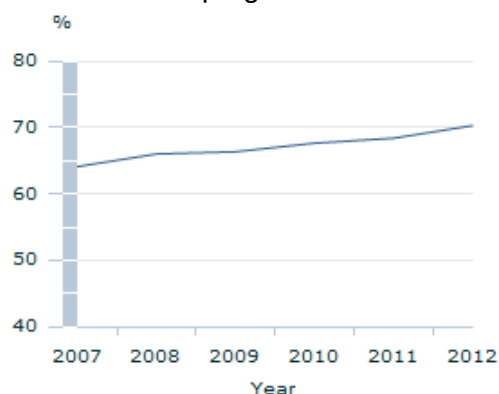
Standard of living

Capabilities

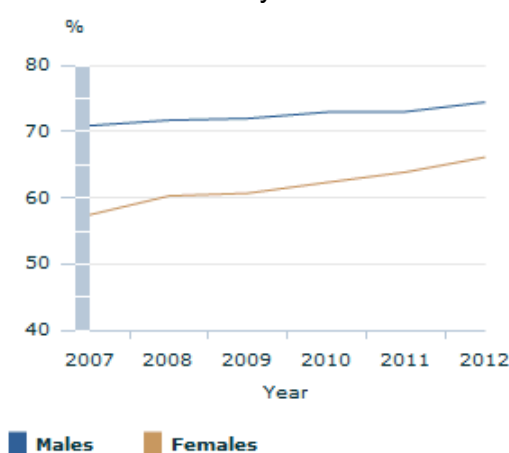
OVERALL PROGRESS?

Persons with a Certificate III or above or employed in a skilled occupation(a)

Headline progress indicator



...by sex



Footnote:

(a) Persons aged 20-64 years.

Source:

ABS data available on request, 2007-2012 Surveys of Education and Work

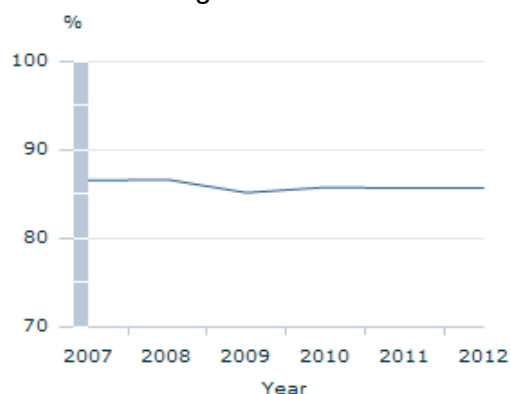
Footnote:

(a) Persons aged 20-64 years.

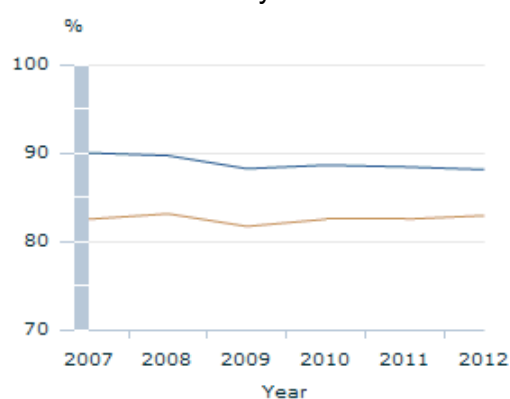
EMPLOYMENT

Employment as a proportion of people who are in work or want to work(a)(b)

Progress indicator



...by sex



Footnote:

(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

(b) Data is for September.

Source:

ABS data available on request, Persons Not in the Labour Force

Males

Females

Footnote:

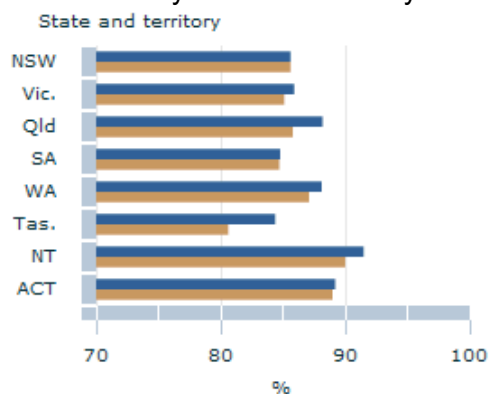
(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

(b) Data is for September.

Source:

ABS data available on request, Persons Not in the Labour Force

...by state and territory



2007

2012

Footnote:

(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

(b) Data is for September.

Source:

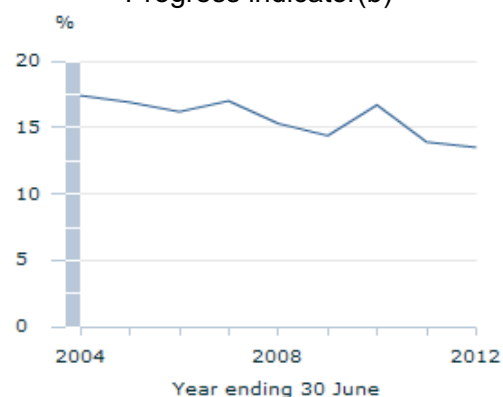
ABS data available on request, Persons Not in the Labour Force

Back to top

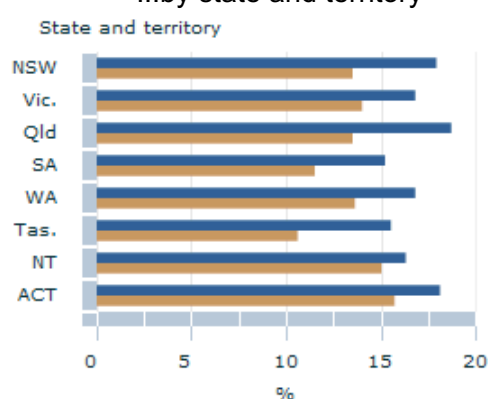
BUSINESS

New business entry rate(a)

Progress indicator(b)



...by state and territory



2003-04

2011-12

Footnote:

(a) Entries relative to total operating businesses at start of financial year.

(b) A spike evident in 2009-10 is due to a change in ABS methodology.

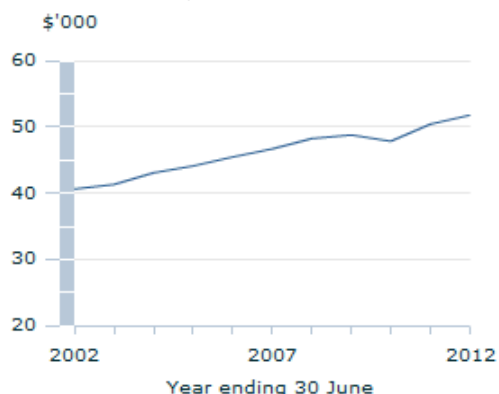
Source:

Footnote:

STANDARD OF LIVING

Real net national disposable income per capita(a)

Progress indicator



Footnote:

(a) Reference year is 2010-11.

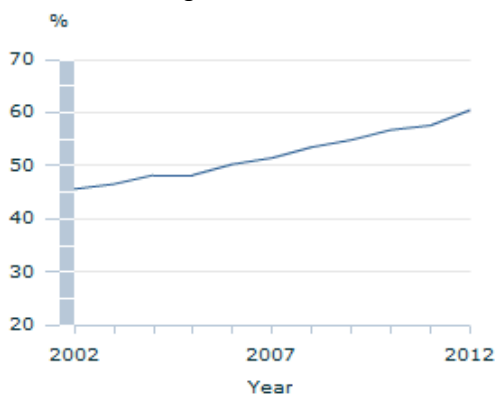
Source:

ABS Australian System of National Accounts, 2011-12 (cat. no. 5204.0)

CAPABILITIES

Persons with a Certificate III or above or employed in a skilled occupation(a)

Progress indicator



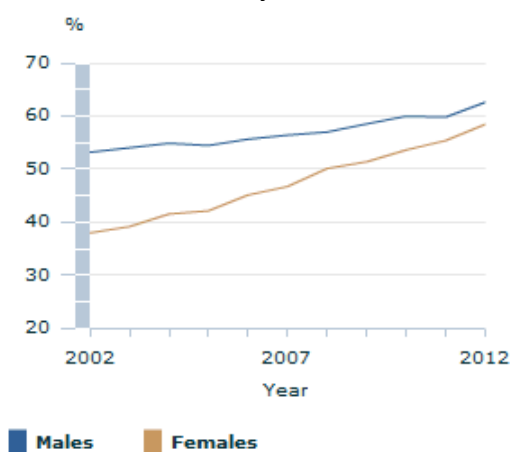
Footnote:

(a) Persons aged 25-64 years.

Source:

ABS data available on request, 2002-2012 Surveys of Education and Work

...by sex



Footnote:

(a) Persons aged 25-64 years.

Source:

ABS data available on request, 2002-2012 Surveys of Education and Work



Jobs

Australians aspire to an economy that provides them with quality jobs

Overall progress? **Overall progress?**

Income **Income**

Job satisfaction **Satisfaction**

Access to flexible work arrangements **Flexible**

Access to safe and healthy working conditions **Safe**

Effective industrial relations environment **Effective**



■ Unemployment rate

Headline progress indicator | ▼

Footnote (a) Annual average.

Source ABS Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0)

Footnote(s): (a) Annual average.;(a) Annual average.;(a) Annual average.

Source(s): ABS Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0); ABS Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0); ABS Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0)

 **The provision of jobs in Australia has progressed over the last decade**

Indicator: Unemployment rate

Why is this theme important?

Australians told us that paid work is important to people's lives, to the economy and to society overall. Employment provides individuals with income, a sense of purpose and a way they can contribute to society. Paid employment is closely linked with economic growth and is the basis of societal productivity and resourcefulness. This aspiration sees a successful economy as one that provides jobs that ensure people's safety, their right to fair treatment and protection, a sense of economic security and an effective industrial relations environment. People thought that quality jobs also allow people to balance their work life with other commitments, provide adequate pay for work done, and are rewarding in a non-material sense.

How have we decided there has been progress?

We have decided that the provision of jobs in Australia has progressed over the last decade because the unemployment rate (our headline progress indicator for jobs) has decreased.

Between 2002 and 2012, the annual average unemployment rate for Australia decreased from 6.4% to 5.2%. The decrease in the rate was consistent over the period from 2002 to 2008, following which the rate increased in the wake of the global financial crisis. Since 2010, there has been some levelling off in

the unemployment rate to its current figure.

Why this headline progress indicator?

The unemployment rate is an important part of the aspiration for the provision of jobs.

The unemployment rate is considered a good measure of progress for an economy that provides jobs because it indicates the percentage of people in the labour force who are unemployed. This is a popular measure around the world for monitoring the economic health of nations as it excludes all the people who are not participating in the labour force, such as those who are retired. The unemployment rate only measures those people who are ready to enter into paid work and have recently taken active steps to find a job; it does not reflect a wider group of people whose aspirations for work are not being fully met because they are working fewer hours than they would like (i.e. people who are underemployed).

A more detailed discussion about labour force measures can be found in 'Understanding the Labour Force' in ABS Labour Force, Australia, Feb 2013 (cat. no. 6202.0).

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is a partial measure of the concept of the provision of jobs as described above (based on Aspirations for our Nation).



The data source is of high quality.

Let's break it down!

Generally, in recent decades, the unemployment rate has tended to rise quickly during economic downturns and fall slowly during periods of economic recovery. In 1983 it rose to a high of 10.0% and then declined to 6.2% in 1989, only to rise again to 10.9% in 1993.

For men the annual average unemployment rate decreased from 6.5% in 2002, to 5.2%, in 2012. For women over the same period the rate decreased from 6.2% to 5.3%.

Use the drop down menu on the graph to look at other breakdowns of the indicator (graphs are also available on the further info page).

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to the provision of jobs than the unemployment rate. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the elements of the provision of jobs have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

Income in Australia has regressed over the last decade

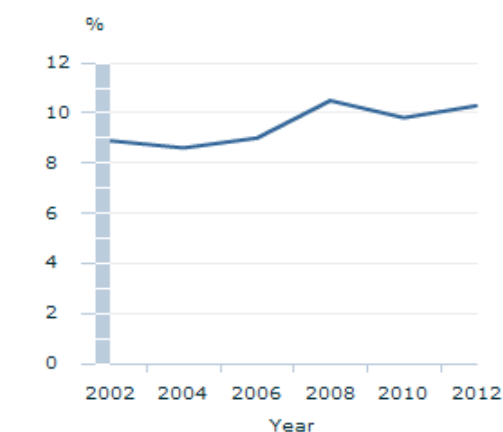
Indicator: Proportion of non-managerial jobs that are low paid

Why is this element important?

As a principal source of economic resources for most people in the community, income earned through paid employment (otherwise known as earnings) is an important aspect of progress. Income not only supports individuals economically by allowing them to purchase goods and services or build savings, but also supports wellbeing in other ways, such as by contributing to a sense of purpose, identity, and self-worth. Income earned through employment also has implications beyond the recipient. This is because the income earned by those in paid employment can be used to support family members, friends and people in the wider community.

Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about the provision of jobs in Australia.

Non-managerial jobs(a) that are low paid(b)



■ Non-managerial jobs

Progress indicator | ▼

Footnote (a) A non-managerial job is considered low paid if hourly cash earnings received is less than or equal to two-thirds the median hourly cash earnings for all non-managerial jobs. (b) Data is for May except 2008 data which is for August.

Source ABS data available on request, Survey of Employee Earnings and Hours

Footnote(s): (a) A non-managerial job is considered low paid if hourly cash earnings received is less than or equal to two-thirds the median hourly cash earnings for all non-managerial jobs. (b) Data is for May except 2008 data which is for August.;(a) A non-managerial job is considered low paid if hourly cash earnings received is less than or equal to two-thirds the median hourly cash earnings for all non-managerial jobs. (b) Data is for May except 2008 data which is for August.

Source(s): ABS data available on request, Survey of Employee Earnings and Hours; ABS data available on request, Survey of Employee Earnings and Hours

How have we decided there has been regress?

We have decided that income in Australia has regressed over the last decade because the proportion of non-managerial jobs that are low paid (our progress indicator for income) has increased.

In 2002, 8.9% of non-managerial jobs were low paid. A decade later in 2012, the proportion had risen to 10.3%. Non-managerial jobs are considered low paid if the hourly cash earnings received are less than or equal to two-thirds the median hourly cash earnings for all non-managerial jobs.

Why this progress indicator?

Income earned tells us about income as part of the aspiration for the provision of jobs.

The proportion of non-managerial jobs that are low paid is considered a good measure of progress for income because it measures the extent to which people are receiving a reasonable return for the work they perform relative to others. The proportion of non-managerial jobs that are low paid is considered a good measure in this regard as it captures whether persons on the lower end of the income scale are being remunerated in a fair way relative to others in the workforce.

There is no single agreed method for determining whether a job could be considered low paid. For this element in MAP, we have employed a relative measure that considers a job low paid if the hourly cash earnings received are less than or equal to two-thirds the median hourly cash earnings. This is based on a measure used by the International Labour Organization (in their 'Global Wage Report 2012/13'). Managerial jobs are excluded from the indicator as the data source does not allow the derivation of hourly rates of pay for managerial employees.

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is a direct measure of income.

 The data source is of high quality.

Let's break it down!

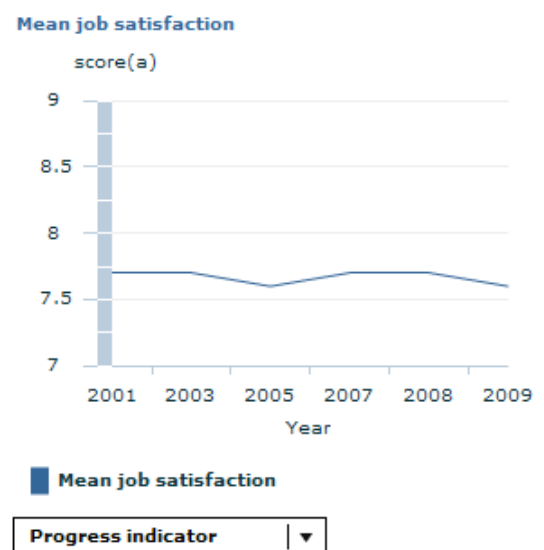
Between 2002 and 2012, the proportion of non-managerial jobs that were low paid was generally similar for both men and women in Australia.

Use the drop down menu on the graph to look at other breakdowns of the indicator (graphs are also available on the further info page).

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to the provision of jobs than income. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of the provision of jobs have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.



Footnote (a) Mean score out of 10.

Source The Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research 2012, Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia Survey: Families, Incomes and Jobs, Volume 7

Footnote(s): (a) Mean score out of 10.:(a) Mean score out of 10.:(a) Mean score out of 10.

Source(s): The Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research 2012, Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia Survey: Families, Incomes and Jobs, Volume 7; The Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research 2012, Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia Survey: Families, Incomes and Jobs, Volume 7; The Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research 2012, Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia Survey: Families, Incomes and Jobs, Volume 7

Job satisfaction in Australia has not changed greatly since 2001

Indicator: Average level of job satisfaction

Why is this element important?

When people are satisfied with their jobs, employee turnover is reduced and the economy benefits from a workforce that is more likely to be engaged with their work. For employees, having challenging and rewarding work to do is both fulfilling and improves the quality of their life.

Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about the provision of jobs in Australia.

How have we decided things haven't changed greatly?

We have decided job satisfaction in Australia has not changed greatly in recent years because the average level of job satisfaction (our progress indicator for job satisfaction) hasn't moved much.

Between 2001 and 2009, the mean job satisfaction score showed a change from 7.7 to 7.6 out of 10. This is a minor difference and does not show any significant change from 2001 to 2009.

Why this progress indicator?

Job satisfaction is an important part of the aspiration for the provision of jobs.

The mean job satisfaction score is considered a good measure of progress for an economy that provides jobs because it allows us to understand, on average, how content people are with their working lives. Levels of job satisfaction can depend on a number of issues, including whether the job is suited to the individual, the conditions in which they work, their relationships with colleagues, and if they are able to balance work and non-work commitments. High levels of job satisfaction are generally an indication of a workforce that is motivated and engaged in work that meets the expectations of employees.

The job satisfaction indicator is sourced from the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia Survey, published by the Melbourne Institute. It is currently one of the only national surveys that collects information concerning the level of satisfaction workers have with their jobs. However, as an indicator of satisfaction, it measures an individual's reported satisfaction of the conditions associated with work, rather than directly observing working conditions.

Subjective job satisfaction is an important aspect of work that affects people's wellbeing and therefore is an important indicator that the extent to which Australians' work preferences are satisfied.

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is a direct measure of job satisfaction.



The data source is of acceptable quality.

Let's break it down!

Different aspects of job satisfaction can also be measured. In Australia, similar levels of satisfaction are found across a range of job characteristics, including satisfaction with total pay, job security, the hours of work and the flexibility to balance work and non-work commitments. Between 2001 and 2009, the mean score on each of these measures did not fall below 6.7 out of 10, suggesting that overall, Australians tend to be satisfied with their jobs.

In 2009, average levels of overall job satisfaction were the same for both men and women in Australia (7.6 out of 10). While there have been small changes in the score for both sexes over time, these changes have been too small to conclude progress or regress.

Use the drop down menu on the graph to look at other breakdowns of the indicator (graphs are also available on the further info page).

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to the provision of jobs than job satisfaction. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of the provision of jobs have progressed.

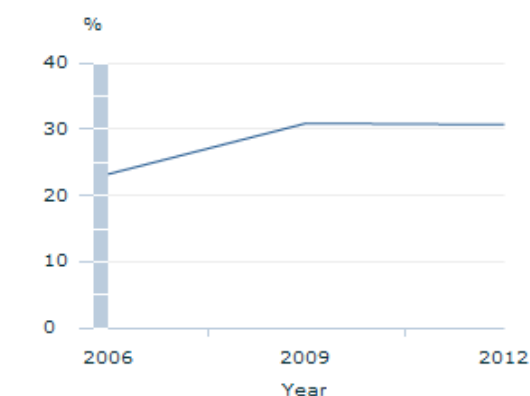
Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

Access to flexible work arrangements in Australia has progressed since 2006

Indicator: Proportion of employees with an agreement with their employer to work flexible hours

Why is this element important?

Employees(a) that have an agreement(b) with employer to work flexible hours



Employees

Progress indicator

Footnote (a) Excludes owner managers of incorporated enterprises (OMIEs).
(b) Includes both written and unwritten agreements.

Source ABS Working Time Arrangements, Australia, November 2012 (cat. no. 6342.0)

Footnote(s): (a) Excludes owner managers of incorporated enterprises (OMIEs). (b) Includes both written and unwritten agreements.;(a) Excludes owner managers of incorporated enterprises (OMIEs). (b) Includes both written and unwritten agreements.;(a) Excludes owner managers of incorporated enterprises (OMIEs). (b) Includes both written and unwritten agreements.

Source(s): ABS Working Time Arrangements, Australia, November 2012 (cat. no. 6342.0); ABS Working Time Arrangements, Australia, November 2012 (cat. no. 6342.0); ABS Working Time Arrangements, Australia, November 2012 (cat. no. 6342.0)

Flexible work arrangements are beneficial for both employers and employees. Being able to access flexible arrangements, whether it is part-time hours, teleworking or other arrangements, helps employees to balance their work and non-work commitments, such as family responsibilities, study, as well as recreation activities. Some other examples of flexible arrangements might include: working from home or an alternative workplace; working shorter hours for an agreed period; choosing start and finish times; or choosing when to take annual leave and purchasing extra annual leave.

Understanding the extent to which Australians use flexible arrangements is important. From an economic perspective, it allows employers to retain employees who may otherwise not be able to work within standard working hours or practices and ensures productive employees can maintain continuity in employment. From a social perspective, flexibility provides greater opportunity for individuals that are not able to maintain standard work patterns. This is particularly the case for mothers returning to the labour force after having children, as well as others with caring responsibilities. Achieving this balance is important for the wellbeing of families.

Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about the provision of jobs in Australia.

How have we decided there has been progress?

We have decided access to flexible work arrangements in Australia have progressed since 2006 because the proportion of employees with an agreement with their employer to work flexible hours (our progress indicator for flexible arrangements) has increased.

Between 2006 and 2012, the proportion of employees with an agreement with their employer to work flexible hours increased by a third from 23% to 31%. This increase largely occurred in the three years between 2006 and 2009, with little change in the rate between 2009 and 2012.

Why this progress indicator?

Flexible work hours tell us about flexible arrangements as part of the aspiration for the provision of jobs.

The proportion of employees with an agreement with their employer to work flexible hours is considered a good measure of progress for flexible work arrangements because it measures whether the labour market is providing jobs that are flexible and suited to the lives of Australians.

Flexible work hours may be agreed to by the employee and employer in a written agreement or discussed verbally. Though only a component of the broader notion of flexible working arrangements, the flexible work hours indicator provides an understanding of the extent to which businesses and employees balance work and non-work life, in the context of a productive economy. However, the proportion of employees with an agreement with their employer to work flexible hours provides only one view of flexible working arrangements. A broader view of the work arrangements of employed people can be found in ABS Working Time Arrangements (cat. no 6342.0).

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is a partial measure of flexible work arrangements.



The data source is of high quality.

Let's break it down!

For both men and women working part-time hours, the proportion with an agreement to work flexible hours increased by almost half in the 6 years to 2012. For men, the proportion grew from 20% to 30% between 2006 and 2012, while for women the proportion grew from 25% to 36%. This equated to there being 204,000 part-time employed men and 705,000 part-time employed women in Australia in 2012 with an agreement to work flexible hours.

For full-time employees, flexible hours also increased, although less so than for part-time employees. For full-time males, the proportion increased from 23% to 29%, while for women the proportion increased from 24% to 30%. In 2012, just over a million full-time employed men and 753,000 full-time employed women had an agreement to work flexible hours.

Use the drop down menu on the graph to look at other breakdowns of the indicator (graphs are also available on the further info page).

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to the provision of jobs than flexible work arrangements. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of the provision of jobs have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

Access to safe and healthy working conditions in Australia has progressed over the last decade

Indicator: Incidence rate for compensated work related injuries

Why is this element important?

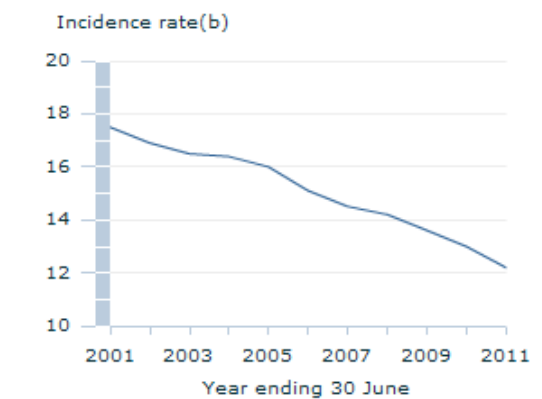
Access to safe and healthy working conditions is beneficial to both employers and employees. Fewer injuries, less absenteeism and less staff turnover, not only benefit worker wellbeing but also improve the morale of workplaces. From an economic perspective, safe and healthy work environments also ensure workplaces are productive and that expenses relating to workers' compensation, legal fees, and recruitment are minimised.

Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about the provision of jobs in Australia.

How have we decided there has been progress?

We have decided that access to safe and healthy working conditions in Australia has progressed in the

Serious claims accepted for workers compensation by employees(a)



Incidence rate

Progress indicator ▼

Footnote (a) Data for 2010-11 is preliminary and likely to increase as more claims are accepted or amended by jurisdictions at a later date. (b) Calculated as serious claims per 1000 employees.

Source Safe Work Australia 2013, Compendium of Workers' Compensation Statistics Australia 2010-11

Footnote(s): (a) Data for 2010-11 is preliminary and likely to increase as more claims are accepted or amended by jurisdictions at a later date. (b) Calculated as serious claims per 1000 employees.;(a) Data for 2010-11 is preliminary and likely to increase as more claims are accepted or amended by jurisdictions at a later date. (b) Calculated as serious claims per 1000 employees.; (a) Data for 2010-11 is preliminary and likely to increase as more claims are accepted or amended by jurisdictions at a later date. (b) Calculated as serious claims per million hours worked.

Source(s): Safe Work Australia 2013, Compendium of Workers' Compensation Statistics Australia 2010-11; Safe Work Australia 2013, Compendium of Workers' Compensation Statistics Australia 2010-11; Safe Work Australia 2013, Compendium of Workers' Compensation Statistics Australia 2010-11

last decade because the incidence rate for compensated work related injuries (our progress indicator for safe and healthy working conditions) has decreased.

Between 2000-01 and 2010-11, the rate of serious claims accepted for workers compensation for employees decreased by almost one-third, from 17.5 per 1,000 employees in 2000-01, to 12.2 per 1,000 employees in 2010-11.

Why this progress indicator?

The incidence of work related injuries sheds light on access to safe and healthy working conditions, as part of the aspiration for the provision of Jobs.

The incidence rate for compensated work related injuries is considered a good measure of progress for safe and healthy working conditions because it shows the rate of serious claims workers have lodged under workers' compensation schemes due to a work related injury or disease. The indicator measures the number of claims made in Australian workplaces relative to the number of people working in these workplaces. Though not a direct observation of the extent to which workplaces are safe and healthy, a decrease in the rate would indicate that workers are less exposed to unsafe work environments and practices.

Data for this indicator is sourced from Safe Work Australia, the Australian Government statutory agency that provides national leadership and coordination in preventing workplace death, injury and disease. A serious claim is defined as a compensation for a death, permanent incapacity, or a temporary incapacity requiring an absence from work of one working week or more, and accepted for compensation by the respective jurisdiction.

The indicator does not cover all cases of occupational injuries and diseases. This is because some occupational injuries and diseases result in an absence from work for less than one working week. Claims arising from journeys to and from work are also excluded. Furthermore, because workers'

compensation schemes do not generally provide coverage to self-employed workers, injuries and diseases of workers employed in industries where self-employed workers are common is understated. In addition, 2010–11 data is preliminary and is likely to change as more claims are accepted or amended by jurisdictions at a later date.

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is an indirect measure of access to safe and healthy working conditions.



The data source is of high quality.

Let's break it down!

The incidence rate for compensated work related injuries decreased for both men and women in the decade to 2010-11. For men, the rate decreased from 22.7 to 15.2 per 1,000 employees, while for women, the decrease was smaller, from 11.5 to 8.9 per 1,000 employees. In 2010-11, this equated to 83,000 men and 44,000 women who had a serious claim accepted. To some extent the higher incidence rates of serious claims among male employees may be explained by the high proportion of males employed in the more hazardous industries, such as mining and construction.

Comparatively, the frequency rates of workplace injury or disease for different groups of employees is another way we can explore the extent to which workplaces are safe and healthy. This measure calculates the number of serious claims reported relative to the total time workers spend working. Frequency rates control for differences in the proportion of part-time employees between one group and another.

The frequency rate for all serious claims accepted for males decreased from 11.6 claims, per million hours worked in 2000-01 to 8.1 claims, per million hours worked in 2010-11. Similarly, the frequency rate for all serious claims accepted for females also decreased from 7.9 claims per million hours worked in 2000-01 to 6.3 claims per million hours worked in 2010-11.

Use the drop down menu on the graph to look at other breakdowns of the indicator (graphs are also available on the further info page).

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to the provision of jobs than access to safe and healthy working conditions. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of the provision of jobs have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

The effectiveness of Australia's industrial relations environment has progressed over the last decade

Indicator: Total number of industrial disputes and working days lost per thousand employees

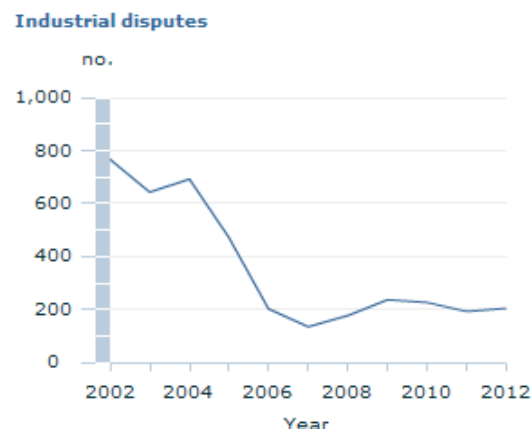
Why is this element important?

Industrial relations refers to the relationship between employers and employees, and typically centres around the pay and conditions under which people are employed. An effective industrial relations environment ensures employees have access to fair wages, conditions and a means of recourse if disputes occur with an employer. Employers also benefit by providing a stable workplace environment where employees are engaged and motivated to productively undertake work.

Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about the provision of jobs in Australia.

How have we decided there has been progress?

We have decided that the effectiveness of the industrial relations environment in Australia has



■ Disputes occurred(a)(b)

Progress indicator

Footnote (a) Total number of disputes is all the disputes which belong to the relevant period. (b) Industrial disputes are included within the scope if the work stoppages amount to ten or more working days lost. Disputes which involve the equivalent of less than 10 working days lost are excluded.

Source ABS Industrial Disputes, Australia, Jun 2013 (cat. no. 6321.0.55.001)

Footnote(s): (a) Total number of disputes is all the disputes which belong to the relevant period. (b) Industrial disputes are included within the scope if the work stoppages amount to ten or more working days lost. Disputes which involve the equivalent of less than 10 working days lost are excluded.;

Source(s): ABS Industrial Disputes, Australia, Jun 2013 (cat. no. 6321.0.55.001); ABS Industrial Disputes, Australia, Jun 2013 (cat. no. 6321.0.55.001)

progressed in the last decade because both the total number of industrial disputes and working days lost per thousand employees (our progress indicators for effective industrial relations environment) have decreased.

Between 2002 and 2012, the number of industrial disputes decreased from 767 to 204. Although there was some fluctuation, over the same period, the number of working days lost per 1,000 employees due to industrial disputes decreased from 32.5 in 2002 to 26.7 in 2012.

Why this progress indicator?

Industrial disputes tells us about the industrial relations environment as part of the aspiration for the provision of jobs.

The number of industrial disputes and number of working days lost per thousand employees due to industrial disputes are good measures of progress for an effective industrial relations environment because they summarise the frequency of disputes between employers and employees. Decreases in the measures indicate stability in Australia's industrial relations system, with fewer work stoppages occurring due to industrial disputes. Importantly, the indicators are limited in that they do not capture whether disputes were resolved, or if so, how disputes came to be resolved, nor tensions that did not result in industrial action. Furthermore, the indicators do not measure the wider impact specific industrial relations systems have on employers, employees, jobs and the effectiveness of broader economy.

While many types of disputes are covered by the measures, work-to-rules, go-slows and bans (e.g. overtime bans) are not included in the measures. Also excluded are effects of disputes on locations other than where the stoppages occurred, such as stand downs because of lack of materials, disruption of transport services and power cuts. In addition, only work stoppages amounting to ten or more working days lost are included, while those that are the equivalent of less than 10 working days lost are excluded.

A broader view of the industrial relations disputes can be found in the ABS Industrial Disputes (cat. no 6321.0.55.001) publication.

Quality assessment (see key)



This indicator is an indirect measure of an effective industrial relations environment.



The data source is of high quality.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to the provision of jobs than an effective industrial relations environment. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of the provision of jobs have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

This page first published 8 September 2015



Further info for jobs

Need some more info on the jobs theme? Hopefully this page can point you in the right direction

Contents

Useful links

Glossary

References

Graph summary

This page contains the following further information for jobs:

- Useful links
- Glossary
- References
- Graph summary

USEFUL LINKS

ABS Topics @ a Glance - Labour

ABS Australian Labour Market Statistics (cat. no. 6105.0)

ABS Australian Social Trends: 50 years of labour force statistics now and then, Dec 2011 (cat.no. 4102.0)

ABS Australian Social Trends: Work, Life and family balance (cat.no. 4102.0)

ABS Employee Earnings and Hours, Australia, May 2012 (cat. no. 6306.0)

ABS Flexible Working Arrangements in Queensland (cat. no. 6342.0.80.002)

ABS Industrial Disputes, Australia (cat. no. 6321.0.55.001)

ABS Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0)

ABS Working Time Arrangements, Australia (cat.no. 6342.0)

Comcare

HILDA Survey: Melbourne Institute: The University of Melbourne

Safe Work Australia

GLOSSARY

Average (mean) earnings

The amount obtained by dividing the total earnings of a group (e.g. full-time employees) by the number of employees in that group.

Agreement to work flexible hours

An agreement that is either in writing or otherwise. A written agreement can be in the form of, but not limited to, an individual written agreement between an employer and employee, or a Collective Agreement or Certified Agreement (CA) made directly between an employer and a group of employees.

Disputes

An industrial dispute is defined as a state of disagreement over an issue or group of issues between an employer and its employees, which results in employees ceasing work. Industrial disputes comprise strikes, which are a withdrawal from work by a group of employees; and lockouts, which are a refusal by an employer or group of employers to permit some or all of their employees to work.

Employed

All persons aged 15 years and over who, during the reference week:

- worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind in a job or business, or on a farm (comprising employees, employers and own account workers); or
- worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business or on a farm (i.e. contributing family

workers); or

- were employees who had a job but were not at work and were:
- away from work for fewer than four weeks up to the end of the reference week; or
- away from work for more than four weeks up to the end of the reference week and received pay for some or all of the four week period to the end of the reference week; or
- away from work as a standard work or shift arrangement; or
- on strike or locked out; or
- on workers' compensation and expected to return to their job; or
- were employers or own account workers, who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.

Employee

A person who works for a public or private employer and receives remuneration in wages, salary, a retainer fee from their employer while working on a commission basis, tips, piece-rates, or payment in kind; or a person who operates his or her own incorporated enterprise with or without hiring employees (ABS 2007).

Full time workers

Employed persons who usually worked 35 hours or more a week (in all jobs) and those who, although usually working fewer than 35 hours a week, worked 35 hours or more during the reference week.

Labour force

For any group, persons who were employed or unemployed, as defined.

Labour force status

A classification of the civilian population aged 15 years and over into employed, unemployed or not in the labour force, as defined. The definitions conform closely to the international standard definitions adopted by the International Conferences of Labour Statisticians.

Labour force underutilisation rate

The sum of the number of persons unemployed and the number of persons in underemployment, expressed as a proportion of the labour force.

Long-term unemployed

The number of persons unemployed for 52 weeks or over.

Long-term unemployment ratio

The number of long-term unemployed persons, expressed as a percentage of the total unemployed population.

Managerial employees

Employees who have strategic responsibilities in the conduct or operations of the organisation and/or are in charge of a significant number of employees. These employees usually do not have an entitlement to paid overtime. Includes professionally qualified staff who primarily perform managerial tasks in conjunction with utilising their professional skills. Owner managers of incorporated enterprises are regarded as managerial employees.

Not in labour force

Persons who were not in the categories employed or unemployed, as defined.

Participation rate

For any group, the labour force expressed as a percentage of the civilian population aged 15 years and

over in the same group.

Part time workers

Employed persons who usually worked fewer than 35 hours a week (in all jobs) and either did so during the reference week or were not at work during the reference week.

Serious claim

A workers' compensation claim for a death, permanent incapacity, or a temporary incapacity requiring an absence from work of one working week or more lodged in the reference year, and accepted for compensation by the jurisdiction by the date the data are extracted for publication. Claims in receipt of common law payments are also included. Each jurisdiction has its own definition of permanent incapacity. It may include total incapacity for work or a permanent impairment requiring a change of tasks. Claims arising from a journey to or from work are only compensable in some jurisdictions, so they are excluded from the analysis in this publication.

Underemployment rate

The number of underemployed workers expressed as a percentage of the labour force.

Underemployed workers

Employed persons aged 15 years and over who want, and are available for, more hours of work than they currently have. They comprise:

- persons employed part time who want to work more hours and are available to start work with more hours, either in the reference week or in the four weeks subsequent to the survey; or
- persons employed full time who worked part time hours in the reference week for economic reasons (such as being stood down or insufficient work being available). It is assumed that these people wanted to work full time in the reference week and would have been available to do so.

Unemployed

Persons aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the reference week, and:

- had actively looked for full time or part time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week and were available for work in the reference week; or
- were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the reference week and could have started in the reference week if the job had been available then.

Working days lost

Working days lost refers to working days lost by employees directly and indirectly involved in the dispute.

Working days lost per employee involved

The average number of working days lost per employee involved in the dispute, calculated by dividing the number of working days lost in the dispute by the number of employees involved (both directly and indirectly).

Working days lost per thousand employees

Working days lost per thousand employees are calculated for a quarterly period by dividing the total number of working days lost in the period by the total number of employees in the Australian labour force in the period (obtained from the ABS Labour Force Survey (LFS)) and multiplying by 1,000. LFS employee estimates are revised periodically. As a result, estimates of working days lost per thousand employees are also subject to revision.

There are no references for this theme

Click on the links below to be taken to a summary of the graphs from the corresponding tab within the jobs theme:

Overall progress?

Income

Job satisfaction

Flexible arrangements

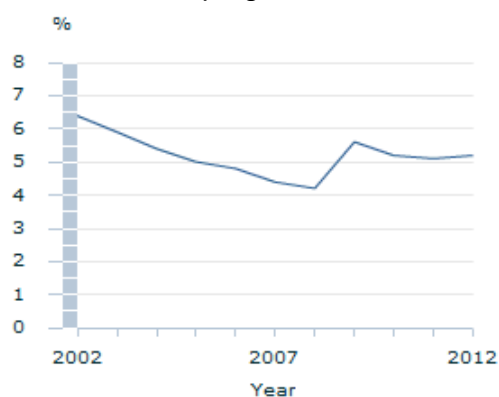
Safe and healthy working conditions

Effective industrial relations environment

OVERALL PROGRESS?

Unemployment rate(a)

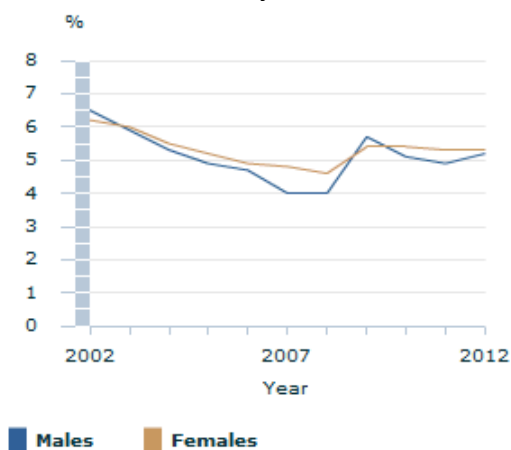
Headline progress indicator



Footnote:
(a) Annual average.

Source:
ABS Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0)

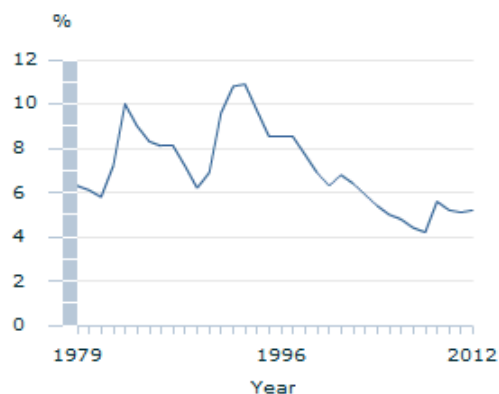
...by sex



Footnote:
(a) Annual average.
Source:
ABS Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0)

[Back to top](#)

...over the longer term



Footnote:
(a) Annual average.

Source:
ABS Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0)

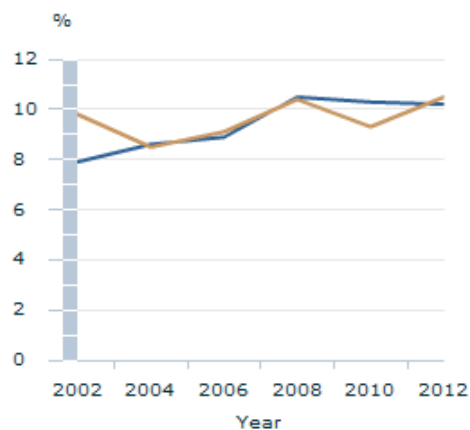
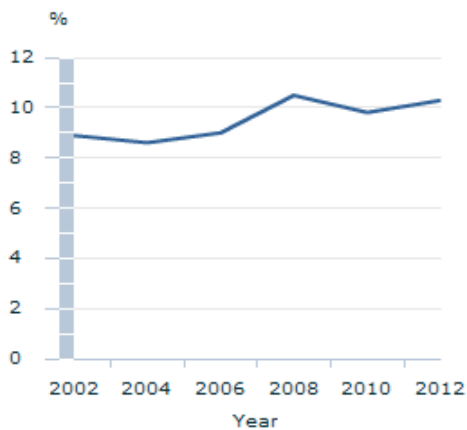
[Back to top](#)

INCOME

Non-managerial jobs(a) that are low paid(b)

Progress indicator

...by sex



Footnote:

a) A non-managerial job is considered low paid if hourly cash earnings received is less than or equal to two-thirds the median hourly cash earnings for all non-managerial jobs.

(b) Data is for May except 2008 data which is for August.

Source:

ABS data available on request, Survey of Employee Earnings and Hours

■ Males ■ Females

Footnote:

a) A non-managerial job is considered low paid if hourly cash earnings received is less than or equal to two-thirds the median hourly cash earnings for all non-managerial jobs.

(b) Data is for May except 2008 data which is for August.

Source:

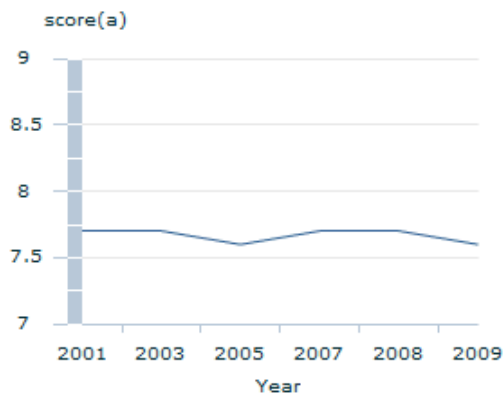
ABS data available on request, Survey of Employee Earnings and Hours

[Back to top](#)

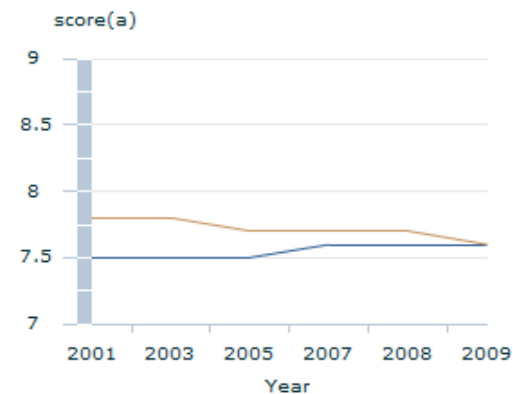
JOB SATISFACTION

Mean job satisfaction

Progress indicator



...by sex



Footnote:

(a) Mean score out of 10.

Source:

The Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research 2012, Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia Survey: Families, Incomes and Jobs, Volume 7

■ Males ■ Females

Footnote:

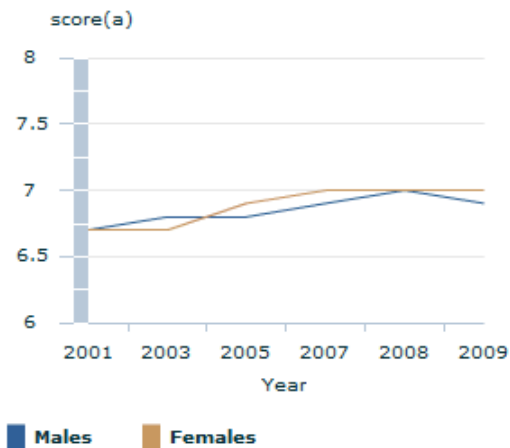
(a) Mean score out of 10.

Source:

The Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research 2012, Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia Survey: Families, Incomes and Jobs, Volume 7

[Back to top](#)

...with total pay by sex



Footnote:

(a) Mean score out of 10.

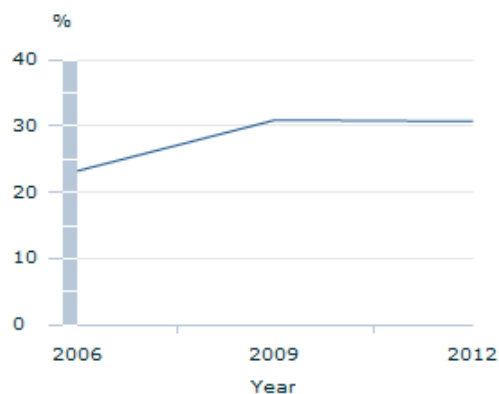
Source:

The Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research 2012, Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia Survey: Families, Incomes and Jobs, Volume 7

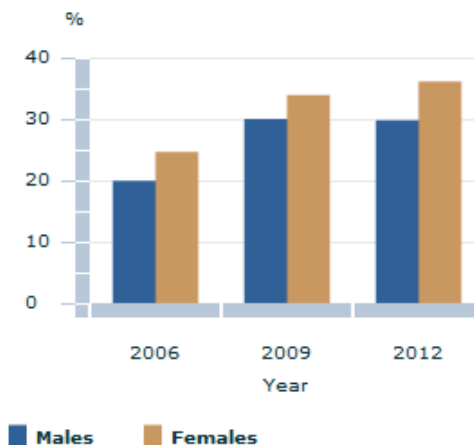
FLEXIBLE ARRANGEMENTS

Employees(a) that have an agreement(b) with employer to work flexible hours

Progress indicator



...part-time employees by sex



Footnote:

(a) Excludes owner managers of incorporated enterprises (OMIEs).

(b) Includes both written and unwritten agreements.

Source:

ABS Working Time Arrangements, Australia, November 2012 (cat. no. 6342.0)

Footnote:

(a) Excludes owner managers of incorporated enterprises (OMIEs).

(b) Includes both written and unwritten agreements.

Source:

ABS Working Time Arrangements, Australia, November 2012 (cat. no. 6342.0)

...full-time employees by sex



Footnote:

(a) Excludes owner managers of incorporated enterprises (OMIEs).

(b) Includes both written and unwritten agreements.

Source:

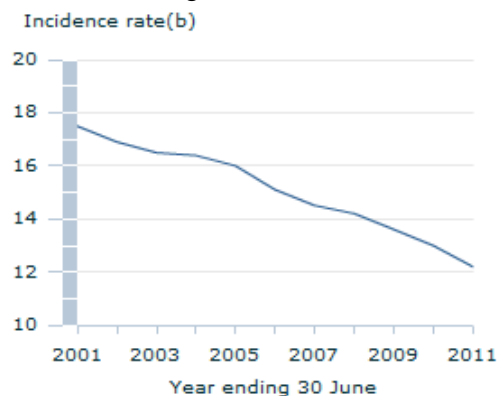
ABS Working Time Arrangements, Australia, November 2012 (cat. no. 6342.0)

[Back to top](#)

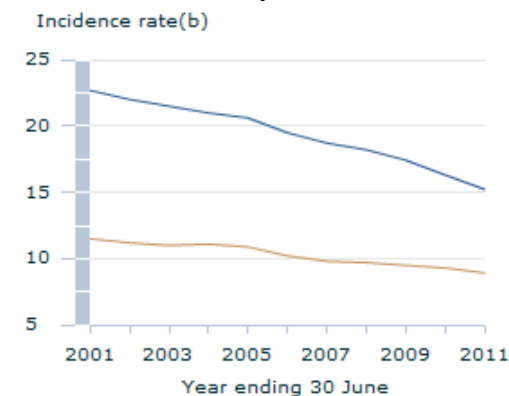
SAFE AND HEALTHY WORKING CONDITIONS

Serious claims accepted for workers compensation by employees(a)

Progress indicator



...by sex



Footnote:

(a) Data for 2010-11 is preliminary and likely to increase as more claims are accepted or amended by jurisdictions at a later date.

■ Males

■ Females

(b) Calculated as serious claims per 1000 employees.

Source:

Safe Work Australia 2013, Compendium of Workers' Compensation
Statistics Australia 2010-11

Footnote:

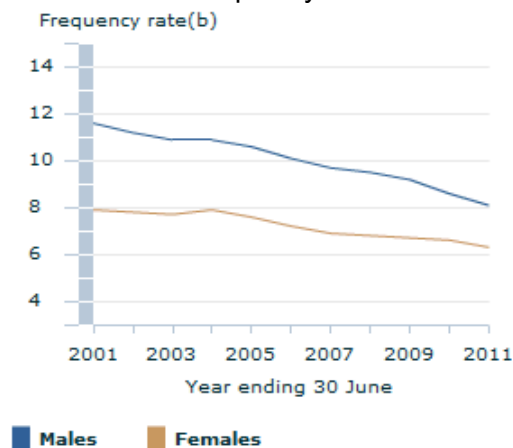
(a) Data for 2010-11 is preliminary and likely to increase as more claims are accepted or amended by jurisdictions at a later date.

(b) Calculated as serious claims per 1000 employees.

Source:

Safe Work Australia 2013, Compendium of Workers' Compensation
Statistics Australia 2010-11

...frequency rate



Footnote:

(a) Data for 2010-11 is preliminary and likely to increase as more claims are accepted or amended by jurisdictions at a later date.

(b) Calculated as serious claims per million hours worked.

Source:

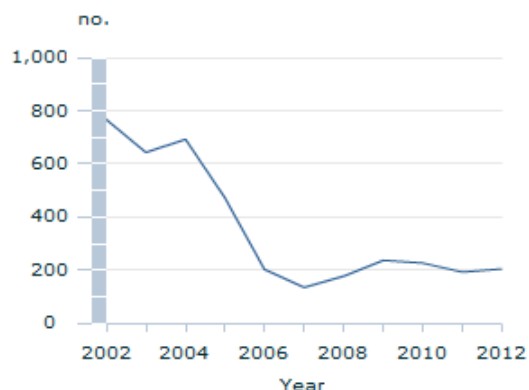
Safe Work Australia 2013, Compendium of Workers' Compensation
Statistics Australia 2010-11

[Back to top](#)

EFFECTIVE INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS ENVIRONMENT

Industrial disputes

Progress indicator(a)(b)



Footnote:

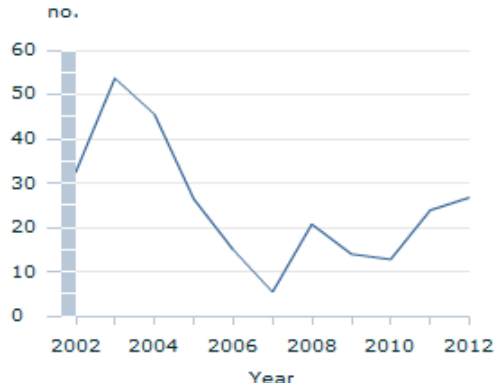
(a) Total number of disputes is all the disputes which belong to the relevant period.

(b) Industrial disputes are included within the scope if the work stoppages amount to ten or more working days lost. Disputes which involve the equivalent of less than 10 working days lost are excluded.

Source:

ABS Industrial Disputes, Australia, Jun 2013 (cat. no. 6321.0.55.001)

Working days lost per 1000 employees



Source:

ABS Industrial Disputes, Australia, Jun 2013 (cat. no. 6321.0.55.001)

[Back to top](#)



Economic prosperity

Australians aspire to a prosperous and efficient economy

Overall progress? **Overall progress?**
Efficient workforce **Efficient workforce**
Efficient use of resources **Resources**
Access to resources **Access**
Innovation for efficiency **Innovation**
Competition **Competition**
Effective regulation **Regulation**

Net saving plus other changes in real net wealth per capita



Change in real net wealth

Progress indicator

Source ABS Australian System of National Accounts, 2011-12 (cat. no. 5204.0)
ABS Australian Demographic Statistics (cat. no. 3101.0)

Source(s): ABS Australian System of National Accounts, 2011-12 (cat. no. 5204.0); ABS Australian Demographic Statistics (cat. no. 3101.0); ABS Australian System of National Accounts, 2011-12 (cat. no. 5204.0); ABS Australian Demographic Statistics (cat. no. 3101.0)

 **Economic prosperity in Australia**
has **progressed** over the last decade

Indicator: Net saving plus other changes in real net wealth per capita

Why is this theme important?

Australians told us that they wanted an economy that thrived and functioned well. This included having an economy that uses both labour and other resources efficiently, that provides access to resources needed for production, that fosters improved productivity of work processes (for example by harnessing new technology) and can compete in an increasingly globalised marketplace. Many thought that economic efficiency relied on well-constructed regulation that helps rather than hinders this functioning.

How have we decided there has been progress?

We have decided that economic prosperity in Australia has progressed over the last decade because net saving plus other changes in real net wealth per capita (our headline progress indicator for economic prosperity) grew year-on-year for the majority of the decade.

Despite fluctuating over time, since 2001-02, net saving plus other changes in real net wealth per capita experienced year-on-year growth each year, with very slight negative growth only seen in the most

recent financial year.

Comparing year-on-year growth indicates a trend towards more moderate annual growth. This trend reflects amongst other factors, losses in the value of Australian non-financial assets (non-financial assets are comprised of produced assets, such as buildings and equipment, and non-produced assets, such as natural resources). In particular, losses in the value of Australian land have had a particularly significant impact on Australian wealth since 2008-09.

Why this headline progress indicator?

Wealth is an important part of the aspiration for economic prosperity.

Net saving plus other changes in real net wealth per capita is considered a good measure of progress for economic prosperity because it shows how an economy's wealth is changing on a per capita basis. This measure shows how real wealth within the economy is being accumulated after allowing for changes in the general price level. A positive figure shows that real per capita wealth is increasing relative to population change due to influences such as investment or asset price growth. A negative figure indicates that the growth in real net wealth is not keeping pace with population growth due to influences such as asset price deflation or lack of investment.

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is a partial measure of the concept of economic prosperity as described above (based on Aspirations for our Nation)



The data source is of high quality.

Let's break it down!

Growth in the net saving plus other changes in real net wealth per capita seen in the past decade continues the trend that began in the early 1990s. Since 1992-93, growth in net saving plus other changes in real net wealth per capita has consistently been positive, with the exception being the most recent financial year.

Use the drop down menu on the graph to look at other breakdowns of the indicator (graphs are also available on the further info page).

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to economic prosperity than change in net saving plus other changes in real net wealth per capita. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of economic prosperity have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

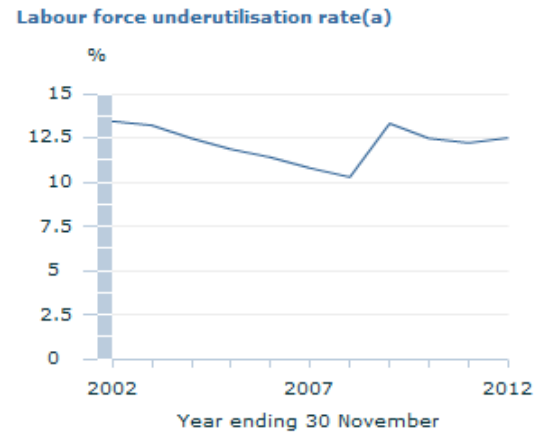
The efficiency of the Australian workforce has progressed over the last decade

Indicator: Labour
force
underutilisation
rate

Why is this element important?

An efficient
workforce is an
important aspect of

economic prosperity due to the substantial contribution workers play in supporting the economy. In a prosperous economy, the skills, talents and labour of the population is efficiently harnessed to produce the goods and services that benefit everyone in the community. Moreover, an efficient workforce contributes towards maximising economic growth, which can bring about improvements in living standards.



Underutilisation rate

Progress indicator

Footnote (a) Annual average.

Source ABS Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0)

Footnote(s): (a) Annual average.;(a) Annual average.

Source(s): ABS Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0); ABS Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0)

Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about economic prosperity.

How have we decided there has been progress?

We have decided that there has been progress in the efficiency of the Australian workforce because the labour force underutilisation rate (our progress indicator for efficient workforce) has decreased.

In 2002, Australia's labour force underutilisation rate was 13.4%. This declined steadily year-on-year to a low of 10.3% in 2008 after which the rate increased coinciding with the global financial crisis. Since 2009 however, the rate returned to its declining trend before recording a small increase in the most recent year (to 12.5% in 2012).

Why this progress indicator?

Labour force utilisation tells us about the efficiency of the workforce as part of the aspiration for economic prosperity.

The labour underutilisation rate is considered a good measure of progress for efficient workforce because it measures whether the economy is providing sufficient employment opportunities for those in the labour force. When there is underutilisation in the labour market, this indicates that there are people in the community whose aspirations for work are not being fully met, either because they are unemployed or working fewer hours than they would like (the underemployed). The underutilisation rate is an important indicator of progress as a high rate suggests an economy that is insufficiently harnessing the full potential of people to contribute towards improved economic outcomes.

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is a direct measure of an efficient workforce.



The data source is of high quality.

Let's break it down!

While trends over time in labour force underutilisation are generally consistent for men and women, there is a notable disparity in the rate between the two, with underutilisation higher for women. For the

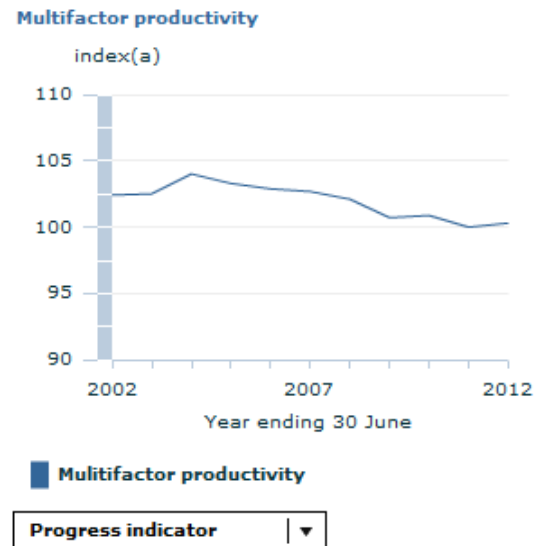
decade 2002 to 2012, the average underutilisation rate for men was 10.3%, while for women the average was more than a third higher at 14.5%.

Use the drop down menu on the graph to look at other breakdowns of the indicator (graphs are also available on the further info page).

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to economic prosperity than an efficient workforce. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of economic prosperity have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.



Footnote (a) Reference year for index is 2010-11 = 100.0.

Source ABS Australian System of National Accounts, 2011-12 (cat. no. 5204.0)

Footnote(s): (a) Reference year for index is 2010-11 = 100.0.;(a) Reference year for index is 2010-11 = 100.0.
Source(s): ABS Australian System of National Accounts, 2011-12 (cat. no. 5204.0); ABS Australian System of National Accounts, 2011-12 (cat. no. 5204.0)

The efficient use of resources in Australia has regressed over the last decade.

Indicator: Multifactor productivity

Why is this element important?

The way resources are used in economic production plays an important role in determining how economic growth and wealth are generated. When resources are used efficiently, economic production is maximised based on the resources available. This ensures the greatest possible benefits to the community as the quantity of all resources is limited and some, such as natural resources, are non-renewable.

Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about economic prosperity.

How have we decided there has been regress?

We have decided the efficient use of resources in Australia has regressed over the decade because multifactor productivity (our progress indicator for the efficient use of resources) has decreased.

Between 2001-02 and 2011-12, multifactor productivity in Australia declined 2.1%. This may indicate that the economy has become less efficient at transforming inputs (i.e. capital and labour) into outputs (i.e. goods and services).

Why this Progress Indicator?

Productivity tells us about the efficient use of resources as part of the aspiration for economic prosperity.

Multifactor productivity is considered a good measure of progress for the efficient use of resources because it measures the efficiency with which an economy transforms inputs (i.e. capital and labour) into outputs (i.e. goods and services). An increasingly productive nation is able to produce more goods and services from the same quantity of inputs. In the long-term, multifactor productivity can measure how much the nation has improved in terms of the way it produces good and services (technical progress). In the short term however, the measure can also reflect unexplained factors such as cyclical variations in labour and capital utilisation, economies of scale, and measurement error. In particular, it may be influenced by not measuring certain natural resource inputs, such as subsoil assets, which can greatly influence production in certain industries including agriculture, forestry and fishing, mining and electricity, gas, water and waste services.

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is an indirect measure of the efficient use of resources.



The data source is of high quality.

Let's break it down!

The decline in multifactor productivity during the most recent decade lies in contrast to the decade before when productivity in Australia generally increased. During the late-90s and early-2000s, multifactor productivity generally grew year-on-year until it reached its peak in the 2003-04 financial year.

Use the drop down menu on the graph to look at other breakdowns of the indicator (graphs are also available on the further info page).

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to economic prosperity than the efficient use of resources. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of economic prosperity have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

A data gap currently exists for access to resources

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

A range of possible indicators have been considered for access to resources but no single measure was considered suitable for this multidimensional indicator. A suitable measure should provide an indication of the ease with which economic resources can be accessed, when required, without impediment. Although a large range of data are available about labour and capital within the Australian economy, including both produced and non-produced assets, there is little information about their availability nor any which can be interpreted as such. For example, the stock of Australian subsoil assets may increase but the new discoveries might be less accessible than previously known deposits. Furthermore, the accessibility of different resources is affected by a diverse range of constraints, such as regulatory, geographic and market-based factors, which cannot presently be captured by a single measure. In order to capture the spirit of this idea in a measure, further development will need to be undertaken.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to economic prosperity than access to resources. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of economic prosperity have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

A data gap currently exists for innovation for efficiency

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

A range of possible indicators have been considered for innovation for efficiency but no single measure was considered suitable for this indicator. A suitable measure should provide an indication of the role innovation plays in increasing efficiency within the Australian economy. Unfortunately, no measure establishes a causal link between the two to show how innovation is fostering increased levels of efficiency. Furthermore, the concept of efficiency entails different things at the microeconomic and macroeconomic levels. For instance, an individual business may improve its own technical efficiency through the adoption of best practice but the economy may become more efficient if its resources are allocated to other activities. This tension between technical and allocative efficiency poses a fundamental problem when selecting an appropriate measure as innovation may increase one form of efficiency at the expense of the other. In order to capture the spirit of this idea in a measure, further development will need to be undertaken.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to economic prosperity than innovation for efficiency. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of economic prosperity have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.



Labour costs

Progress indicator

Footnote (a) Reference year for index is 2010-11 = 100.0.

Source ABS Australian System of National Accounts, 2011-12 (cat. no. 5204.0)

Footnote(s): (a) Reference year for index is 2010-11 = 100.0.;(a) Reference year for index is 2010-11 = 100.0.
Source(s): ABS Australian System of National Accounts, 2011-12 (cat. no. 5204.0); ABS Australian System of National Accounts, 2011-12 (cat. no. 5204.0)

Competition in Australia has progressed over the last decade

Indicator: Real unit labour costs

Why is this element important?

Competition is an important component of a prosperous economy because of its wide ranging consequences for both domestic and international markets. At a local level, competition impacts the

prices consumers pay for goods and services, as well as their availability and quality. Internationally, competition can impact the ability of Australia to sell products in the global marketplace. Australia's international competitiveness therefore, can also indicate the long-term sustainability of local industries and employment.

Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about economic prosperity.

How have we decided there has been progress?

We have decided that competition in Australia has progressed over the last decade because real unit labour costs (our progress indicator for competition) have decreased.

Between 2001-02 and 2011-12, real unit labour costs in Australia decreased by 4.4%. This means that growth in real wage rises has been outpaced by productivity improvement over the past decade.

Why this progress indicator?

The cost of labour tells us about economic competition as part of the aspiration for economic prosperity.

Real unit labour costs is considered a good measure of progress for competition because it measures whether the real cost of labour, per unit of output in the economy, is increasing or decreasing. The international competitiveness of an economy's goods and services is influenced by this relative growth rate. An increase in an economy's real unit labour costs means that labour costs are rising faster than productivity, which is likely to have a negative impact on its international competitiveness. A decrease in an economy's real unit labour costs means that productivity is rising faster than labour costs, which would have a positive impact on its international competitiveness, as we can see from the current indicator.

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is a partial measure of competition.



The data source is of high quality.

Let's break it down!

The decline in real unit labour costs seen in the most recent decade represents a continuation of a larger trend beginning in the mid to late-90s.

Use the drop down menu on the graph to look at other breakdowns of the indicator (graphs are also available on the further info page).

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to economic prosperity than competition. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of economic prosperity have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

A data gap currently exists for effective regulation

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

A range of possible indicators have been considered for effective regulation, but no single measure was considered suitable for this indicator. A suitable measure should provide an indication of the level of

regulation present within the economy and its effectiveness relative to the burden placed on business. Unfortunately, there are difficulties involved with the measurement of the level of regulation present, let alone its effectiveness. For example, measures of new and repealed legislation may be considered indicative of change in the regulatory burden on business. However, it is not clear that changes in volume measures derived from such an exercise can be interpreted as progress in effective regulation. Indeed, the absence of legislation may increase the burden upon businesses as simplicity can create ambiguity whereas extensive legislation can provide greater certainty. A fully comprehensive indicator should capture a range of influences on the effectiveness of regulation and provide an unequivocal indication of progress in this regard. In order to capture the spirit of this idea in a measure, further development will need to be undertaken.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to economic prosperity than effective regulation. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of economic prosperity have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.



Further info for prosperity

Need some more info on the prosperity theme? Hopefully this page can point you in the right direction.

Contents

Useful links

Glossary

References

Graph summary

This page contains the following further information for prosperity:

- Useful links
- Glossary
- References
- Graph summary

USEFUL LINKS

ABS Topics @ a Glance - National Accounts

ABS Topics @ a Glance - Labour

ABS Australian Demographic Statistics (cat. no. 3101.0)

ABS Australian National Accounts: Concepts, Sources and Methods (cat. no. 5216.0)

ABS Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product (cat. no. 5206.0)

ABS Australian System of National Accounts (cat. no. 5204.0)

ABS Experimental Estimates of Industry Multifactor Productivity (cat. no. 5260.0.55.002)

ABS Information paper: Experimental Estimates of Industry Multifactor Productivity (cat. no. 5260.0.55.001)

ABS Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0)

GLOSSARY

Capital services

Calculated by weighting chain volume measures of the productive capital stock of different asset types together using their rental prices as weights. Rental prices can be regarded as the 'wages' of capital.

Capital productivity

Capital productivity estimates are indexes of real GDP per unit of capital services used in production. They have been derived by dividing the index of the chain volume measure of GDP by an index of capital services. The capital productivity indexes reflect not only the contribution of capital to changes in production, but also the contribution by labour and other factors affecting production.

Employed

People aged 15 years and over who, during the reference week:

- worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind in a job or business, or on a farm (comprising employees, employers and own account workers); or
- worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business or on a farm (i.e. contributing family workers); or
- were employees who had a job but were not at work and were:
 - away from work for less than four weeks up to the end of the reference week; or
 - away from work for more than four weeks up to the end of the reference week and received pay for some or all of the four week period to the end of the reference week; or
 - away from work as a standard work or shift arrangement; or
 - on strike or locked out; or
 - on workers' compensation and expected to return to their job; or
- were employers or own account workers who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.

Estimated resident population (ERP)

The estimated resident population (ERP) is the official measure of the population of Australia. It is based on the concept of usual residence. For the purpose of ERP, a person is regarded as a usual resident if they have been (or are expected to be) residing in Australia for a period of 12 months or more. As such, it refers to all people, regardless of nationality, citizenship or legal status who usually live in Australia, with the exception of foreign diplomatic personnel and their families.

Gross domestic product (GDP)

Is the total market value of goods and services produced in Australia within a given period after deducting the cost of goods and services used up in the process of production but before deducting allowances for the consumption of fixed capital. Thus gross domestic product, as here defined, is 'at market prices'. It is equivalent to gross national expenditure plus exports of goods and services less imports of goods and services. Farm product is that part of gross domestic product which arises from production in agriculture and services to agriculture. It is equivalent to the value added of ANZSIC 06 subdivision 01 'Agriculture' plus taxes less subsidies on products primary to this subdivision. Non-farm product arises from production in all other industries.

Hours worked

The hours worked by all labour engaged in the production of goods and services, including hours worked by civilian wage and salary earners, employers, self-employed persons, persons working one hour or more without pay in a family business or on a farm, and members of the Australian defence forces.

Labour force

For any group, persons who were employed or unemployed, as defined.

Labour force underutilisation rate

The sum of the number of persons unemployed and the number of persons in underemployment, expressed as a proportion of the labour force.

Labour productivity

Labour productivity estimates are indexes of real GDP per person employed or per hour worked. They have been derived by dividing the chain volume measure of GDP by employment (or hours worked). Estimates are also made using labour inputs adjusted for the quality and composition of labour input. Labour productivity indexes reflect not only the contribution of labour to changes in product per labour unit, but are also influenced by the contribution of capital and other factors affecting production.

Multifactor productivity

Multifactor productivity estimates are indexes of real GDP per combined unit of labour and capital. They have been derived by dividing chain volume estimates of market sector GDP by a combined measure of hours worked and capital services.

Multifactor productivity estimates are indexes of real GVA per combined unit of labour and capital. Multifactor productivity is the part of output growth that cannot be attributed to the growth of labour or capital inputs. Multifactor productivity reflects such things as business process innovations, advances in technology, or almost any other type of improvement in the efficiency of a firm's operations. When Multifactor productivity rises, the economy can produce more output with the same quantity of labour and capital. Multifactor productivity can be equated with technological change if certain conditions are met (e.g. firms seek to maximise profits, markets are competitive, and the coverage of inputs is complete). Because these conditions are typically not met, measured Multifactor productivity will, in addition to technological change, include the effects of model misspecification and errors in the measurement of the variables.

National saving

Calculated as the sum of the net saving of each of the resident sectors – households and unincorporated enterprises, non-financial corporations, financial corporations and general government. Also referred to as *net saving*.

Net saving – corporations

This is equal to the gross income receivable by corporations less income payable and consumption of fixed capital. Income receivable by corporations includes gross operating surplus, property income and current transfers receivable. Income payable includes property income and current transfers (including income taxes) payable.

Net saving – general government

The surplus of general government gross income over current use of income. Current use of income includes final consumption expenditure and current transfers (interest and other property income payable, social assistance benefits payments to residents, transfers to non-profit institutions, subsidies, etc.).

Net saving – households

Is equal to gross household disposable income less household final consumption expenditure and consumption of fixed capital. Household saving is estimated as the balancing item in the households income account. It includes saving through life insurance and superannuation funds (including net earnings on these funds), increased equity in unfunded superannuation schemes and the increase in farm assets with marketing boards.

Net worth

In the national and sectoral balance sheets, net worth represents the difference between the stock of assets (both financial and non-financial) and the stock of liabilities (including shares and other equity). Because it is derived residually, it can be negative.

Persons in the labour force

People who were classified as being in the labour force, that is, either employed or unemployed.

Quality adjusted hours worked

This measure of labour input takes account of changes in the aggregate quality of labour due to changes in educational attainment and the length of experience in the workforce. Labour productivity and multifactor productivity estimates based on quality adjusted hours worked are also calculated. For a description of this work see the feature article, 'Further developments in the analysis of productivity growth in Australia' in the September quarter 2001 issue of Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product (cat. no. 5206.0).

Real

Real incomes payable and receivable are calculated by dividing the nominal (current) income flows by the implicit price deflator for gross national expenditure.

Real net worth per capita

The ratio of real net worth to the estimated resident population (ERP) of Australia. See 'Net worth' for further information.

Real unit labour costs

A measure of the pace of real wage rises compared with the pace of productivity improvement. In nominal terms, unit labour costs are calculated by dividing average labour costs by average labour productivity. However, nominal unit labour costs ignore real wage rises as they do not account for

general increases in prices across the economy. This influence is eliminated by dividing average labour costs by the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) deflator to reflect the real cost of labour and its influence on productivity growth.

Underemployed workers

Employed persons aged 15 years and over who want, and are available for, more hours of work than they currently have. They comprise:

- persons employed part time who want to work more hours and are available to start work with more hours, either in the reference week or in the four weeks subsequent to the survey; or
- persons employed full time who worked part time hours in the reference week for economic reasons (such as being stood down or insufficient work being available). It is assumed that these people wanted to work full time in the reference week and would have been available to do so.

Unemployed

Persons aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the reference week, and:

- had actively looked for full time or part time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week and were available for work in the reference week; or
- were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the reference week and could have started in the reference week if the job had been available then.

There are no references for this theme

Click on the links below to be taken to a summary of the graphs from the corresponding tab within the prosperity theme:

Overall progress?

Efficient workforce

Efficient use of resources

Competition

OVERALL PROGRESS?

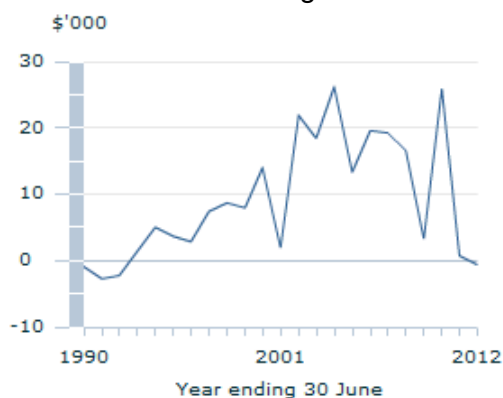
Net saving plus other changes in real net wealth per capita

Headline progress indicator



Source:
ABS Australian System of National Accounts, 2011-12 (cat. no. 5204.0)
ABS Australian Demographic Statistics (cat. no. 3101.0)

...over the longer term



Source:
ABS Australian System of National Accounts, 2011-12 (cat. no. 5204.0)
ABS Australian Demographic Statistics (cat. no. 3101.0)

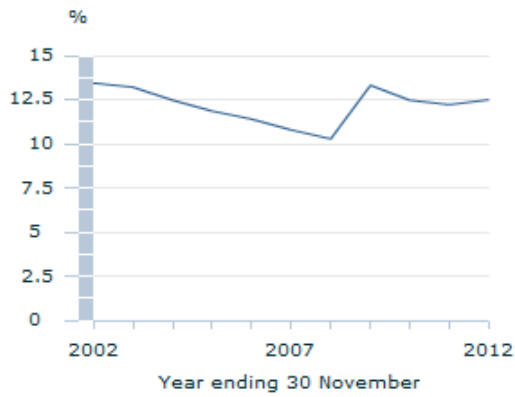
[Back to top](#)

EFFICIENT WORKFORCE

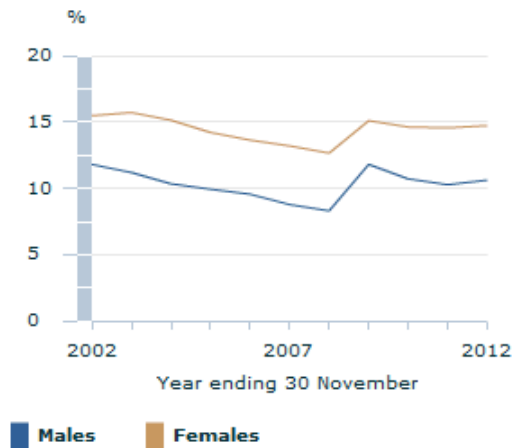
Labour force underutilisation rate(a)

Progress indicator

...by sex



Footnote:
(a) Annual average.
Source:
ABS Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0)



Footnote:
(a) Annual average.
Source:
ABS Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0)

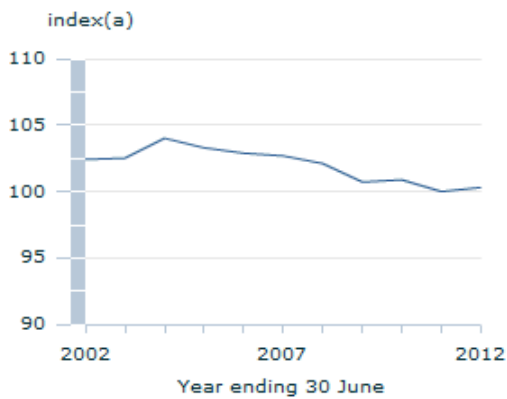
[Back to top](#)

EFFICIENT USE OF RESOURCES

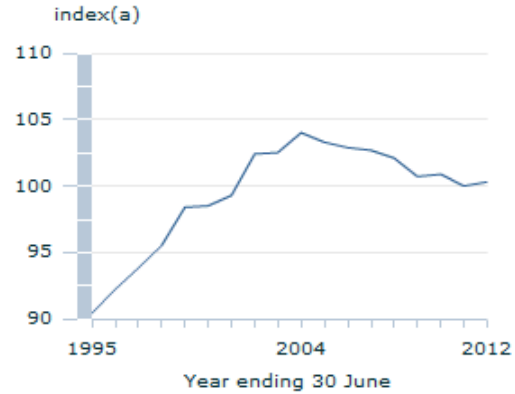
Multifactor productivity

Progress indicator

...over the longer term



Footnote:
(a) Reference year for index is 2010-11 = 100.0.
Source:
ABS Australian System of National Accounts, 2011-12 (cat. no. 5204.0)



Footnote:
(a) Reference year for index is 2010-11 = 100.0.
Source:
ABS Australian System of National Accounts, 2011-12 (cat. no. 5204.0)

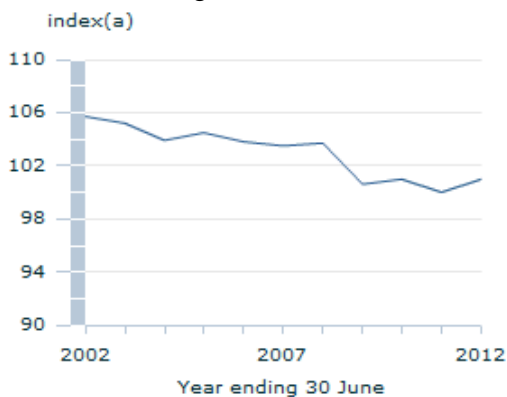
[Back to top](#)

COMPETITION

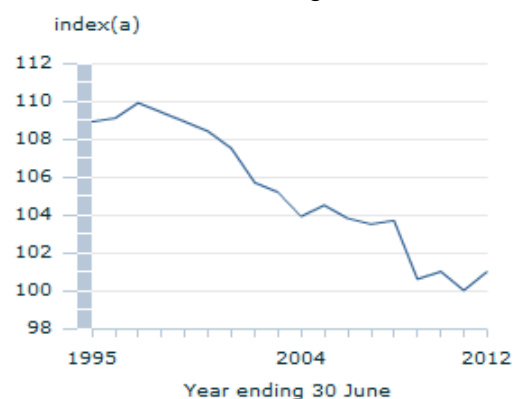
Real unit labour costs

Progress indicator

...over the longer term



Footnote:
(a) Reference year for index is 2010-11 = 100.0.
Source:
ABS Australian System of National Accounts, 2011-12 (cat. no. 5204.0)



Footnote:
(a) Reference year for index is 2010-11 = 100.0.
Source:
ABS Australian System of National Accounts, 2011-12 (cat. no. 5204.0)

[Back to top](#)



A resilient economy

Australians aspire to an economy that is resilient to shocks and which allows people to manage risk

Overall progress? **Overall progress?**

Economic flexibility **Flexibility**

Insurance **Insurance**

Economic stability **Stability**

Prudent financial sector **Prudent finance**

Information **Information**

Multifactor productivity



Multifactor productivity

Headline progress indicator | ▼

Footnote (a) Reference year for index is 2010-11 = 100.0.

Source ABS Australian System of National Accounts, 2011-12 (cat. no. 5204.0)

Footnote(s): (a) Reference year for index is 2010-11 = 100.0.;(a) Reference year for index is 2010-11 = 100.0.
Source(s): ABS Australian System of National Accounts, 2011-12 (cat. no. 5204.0); ABS Australian System of National Accounts, 2011-12 (cat. no. 5204.0)

✗ The resilience of the Australian economy has regressed over the last decade

Indicator: Multifactor productivity

Why is this theme important?

Australians told us that in response to recent global economic downturns and natural disasters, they aspired to an economy able to cope with unexpected crises and to maintain a good standard of living for Australians. This included an economy which can respond flexibly to events and where resources can be drawn upon, to protect against risk. People also aspired to a nation with a broad level of economic stability that enables the building up of resources that can be drawn upon in a crisis. Having knowledge of vulnerabilities and opportunities within the economy was also seen as important.

How have we decided there has been regress?

We have decided the resilience of Australia's economy has regressed over the decade because multifactor productivity (our headline progress indicator for a resilient economy) has decreased.

Between 2001-02 and 2011-12, multifactor productivity in Australia declined 2.1%. This means that growth in output (i.e. goods and services) of the Australian market sector has been outpaced by growth in its inputs (i.e. capital and labour) over the past decade. An economy with a lower level of productivity

is likely to be less capable at withstanding and recovering from economic downturns.

Why this headline progress indicator?

Multifactor productivity tells us about the resilience of Australia's economy.

Multifactor productivity is considered a good measure of progress for a resilient economy because it measures the growth in output (i.e. goods and services) of the Australian market sector relative to growth in its inputs (i.e. capital and labour). An increasingly efficient and productive economy is more likely to be able withstand volatile or rapidly changing economic conditions. Over the long-term, multifactor productivity demonstrates how much the nation has improved in terms of the way it produces goods and services (technical progress). In this sense the measure is able to provide a sense of how resilient the economy is and its capacity to respond to shocks and changing economic conditions. In the short term however, the measure can also reflect unexplained factors such as cyclical variations in labour and capital utilisation, economies of scale, and measurement error. In particular, multifactor productivity may be influenced by not measuring certain natural resource inputs, such as subsoil assets, which can greatly influence production in certain industries including agriculture, forestry and fishing, mining and electricity, gas, water and waste services.

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is an indirect measure of the concept of a resilient economy as described above (based on Aspirations for our Nation).



The data source is of high quality.

Let's break it down!

Use the drop down menu on the graph to look at other breakdowns of the indicator (graphs are also available on the further info page).

The decline in multifactor productivity during the most recent decade lies in contrast to the previous decade when productivity in Australia generally increased. During the late-90s and early-2000s, multifactor productivity generally grew year-on-year until it reached its peak in the 2003-04 financial year.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to a resilient economy than multifactor productivity. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of a resilient economy have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

Economic flexibility in Australia has progressed over the last decade

Indicator: Average duration of unemployment

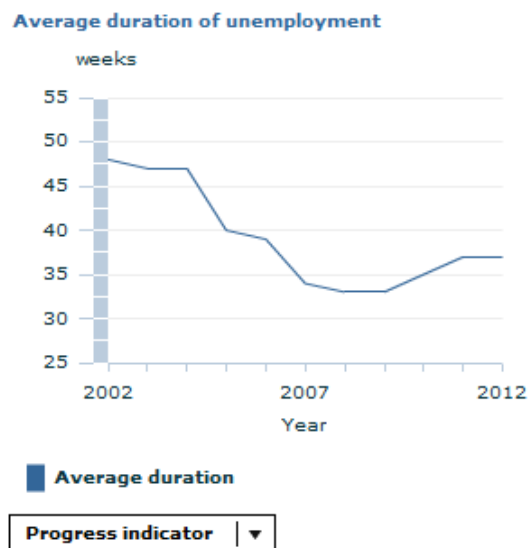
Why is this element important?

Economic flexibility is important as it ensures the economy remains resilient and can cope with unexpected crises. It is also important from the individual perspective because it ensures that people do not suffer from entrenched disadvantage, associated with prolonged unemployment.

Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about a resilient economy.

How have we decided there has been progress?

We have decided that economic flexibility in Australia has progressed over the last decade because the average duration of unemployment (our progress indicator for flexibility) has decreased.



Source ABS Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery, Jul 2013 (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001); ABS Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery, Jul 2013 (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)

Source(s): ABS Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery, Jul 2013 (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001); ABS Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery, Jul 2013 (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)

In 2002, the average number of weeks an individual was unemployed was 48 weeks and in 2012 this number decreased to 37 weeks.

For the first half of the previous decade, the average duration of unemployment declined as a result of Australia's strong economic growth, from 48 weeks on average in 2002 to 33 weeks on average in 2009. However, in the wake of the global financial crisis, the average duration of unemployment rose to 37 weeks on average in 2011. Though the average has not consistently decreased over the decade, between 2002 and 2012 the duration of unemployment did decrease on average by 11 weeks.

Why this progress indicator?

Duration of unemployment tells us about economic flexibility as part of the aspiration for a resilient economy.

Average duration of unemployment is considered a good measure of the progress of economic flexibility because it provides an understanding of how rapidly the economy responds to changing economic circumstances. Although an indicator of economic progress, it also has social implications. It provides an indication of how quickly or slowly individuals are able to transition back into paid work or out of the labour force after a period of unemployment. In this sense, this indicator demonstrates the extent to which individuals can rebound from periods of unemployment and become redeployed back into the labour market.

One limitation of the indicator in terms of assessing economic flexibility is that a period of unemployment does not always end with a person re-entering the workforce - individuals may instead choose to give up looking for work altogether. The indicator will therefore in part also reflect whether people have become discouraged job seekers.

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is a partial measure of economic flexibility.



The data source is of high quality.

Let's break it down!

Average duration of unemployment for males decreased from 54 weeks in 2002 on average, to 39 weeks in 2012, a reduction of 15 weeks. For females the reduction was smaller, in 2002 it was 41 weeks for the average duration of unemployment, compared with 35 weeks in 2012.

Use the drop down menu on the graph to look at other breakdowns of the indicator (graphs are also available on the further info page).

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to a resilient economy than economic flexibility. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of a resilient economy have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

A data gap currently exists for insurance

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

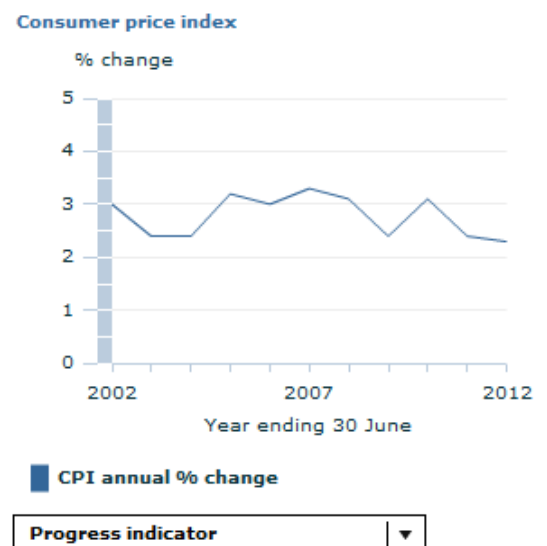
1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

A range of possible indicators have been considered for insurance but no single measure was considered suitable for this multidimensional indicator. A suitable measure should provide an indication of the level of insurance within the Australian economy as well as the level of insurance necessary to manage the total risk present. Although measures of the former are available, progress against this indicator cannot be meaningfully evaluated as there is insufficient data available about the latter. Furthermore, the concept of insurance is inherently broad and protection against risk or injury can take many forms besides insurance premiums. A fully comprehensive indicator should recognise these forms of insurance, such as the installation of an alarm or the construction of a flood levy. In order to capture the spirit of this idea in a measure, further development will need to be undertaken.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to a resilient economy than insurance. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of a resilient economy have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.



Source ABS Consumer Price Index, Australia, Jun 2013 (cat. no. 6401.0); ABS Consumer Price Index, Australia, Jun 2013 (cat. no. 6401.0)

Source(s): ABS Consumer Price Index, Australia, Jun 2013 (cat. no. 6401.0); ABS Consumer Price Index, Australia, Jun 2013 (cat. no. 6401.0); ABS Consumer Price Index, Australia, Jun 2013 (cat. no. 6401.0)

Economic stability in Australia has progressed over the last decade

Indicator: Consumer Price Index

Why is this element important?

Australians told us that a stable economy was important for national progress. In response to structural changes in the broader economy, many aspired to ensure that economic disorder was no barrier to improving the wellbeing of Australians.

Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about a resilient economy.

How have we decided there has been progress?

We have decided that economic stability in Australia has progressed over the last decade because the consumer price index (CPI) (our progress indicator for stability) has maintained a moderate rate of growth.

Between 2001-02 and 2011-12, the rate of annual inflation expressed by the CPI remained relatively low, at around 3 per cent per annum. This meets the Reserve Bank's target for monetary policy in Australia, i.e. an inflation rate of 2–3 per cent, on average. A stable rate of growth in the CPI is considered progress because this rate indicates that inflation will not materially distort economic decisions in the community. Seeking to achieve a 2–3 per cent growth rate, also provides discipline for monetary policy decision-making, and serves as an anchor for private-sector inflation expectations. A low and stable rate of inflation is desirable both for the health of the economy and for individual welfare.

Why this progress indicator?

The relative price of goods and services (expressed by the CPI) tells us about stability as part of the aspiration for economic stability.

The CPI is considered a good measure of progress for economic stability because it measures the general rate at which prices change. The CPI has been designed as a general measure of price inflation faced by households. Inflation - an upward movement in the general level of prices - can impose costs on individuals and the economy. Over time, inflation reduces the purchasing power of money and can lead to market inefficiencies. Inflation is an important aspect of progress as it affects economic stability. Large or unanticipated changes in prices can distort the behaviour of consumers and businesses, who may find it more difficult to predict the effects of their saving and investment decisions. Inflation can also put upward pressure on wages as people struggle to meet rising costs, and can reduce trade competitiveness as prices of exports increase. This is why a stable rate for the CPI is a sign of progress as part of the aspiration for economic stability.

Although the CPI is the most comprehensive measure of inflation available, it does have certain limitations. The CPI is designed to measure inflation for Australian metropolitan households and thus may not accurately reflect the experience of people living in rural areas. Also, the CPI cannot be used to measure differences in price levels between one place and another; it only measures changes in prices over time. The CPI uses a fixed basket of goods and services which does not take into account people's substitution to relatively cheaper goods and services which is part of a cost-of-living index.

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is a partial measure of economic stability.



The data source is of high quality.

Let's break it down!

The CPI has been more stable over the last decade than any of the five preceding decades. From the mid-1950s to the late 1960s, the annual rate of inflation in Australia remained relatively low (below 5 %) until a sharp rise in the first half of the 1970s (peaking at 17.2% in 1974). This was influenced by higher oil prices, wage growth and other factors. These inflationary pressures persisted into the 1980s, partly due to a second oil price shock, and although it continued to grow strongly, inflation was fairly stable during the 1980s (EPAC 1990). Between 2002 and 2012, growth in the CPI has been much more stable

at an average annual rate of 2.8% over the decade.

Across all Australian capital cities over the last decade the CPI has increased by similar amounts. The greatest change was registered in Perth with an increase of 34.1%. The smallest change occurred in Hobart with an increase of 29.6%. However, the CPI is constructed specifically to measure changes in prices over time, and therefore it is not appropriate to use the CPI to compare price levels across two separate cities.

Use the drop down menu on the graph to look at other breakdowns of the indicator (graphs are also available on the further info page).

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to a resilient economy than economic stability. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of a resilient economy have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.



Source Reserve Bank of Australia, Historical Statistics -Banks - Consolidated Group Capital, (data collected by APRA)

Source(s): Reserve Bank of Australia, Historical Statistics -Banks - Consolidated Group Capital, (data collected by APRA)
Prudent financial management in Australia has progressed over the last decade

Indicator: Total capital base ratio

Why is this element important?

Australians told us that prudent financial management of Australia's economy was important for national progress. In response to recent global economic downturns and natural disasters, many aspired to an economy that was able to cope with unexpected crises and maintain a good standard of living for Australians. The ability of the economy to respond and rebound was believed to be partially represented by the soundness of the financial sector. A prudent financial sector was able to withstand shocks to the economy even during significant downturns in the business cycle.

Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about a resilient economy.

How have we decided there has been progress?

We have decided that the prudent financial management of Australia's economy has progressed over the last decade because the total capital base ratio (our progress indicator for prudent financial sector) has increased.

The total capital base ratio represent a bank's 'ability to withstand losses without becoming insolvent' (RBA 2010). Between 2002 and 2012, the total capital base ratio rose from 10.3% in 2001-02 to 11.8%

in 2011-12. This ratio is well beyond minimum standards agreed upon internationally, which are currently set at 8% and will transition to 10.5% by 2019. This shows that Australia's banking sector is well ahead globally where prudence is concerned.

The increase in the total capital base ratio has been due to significant increases in the level and quality of capital held by the Australian banking sector in response to pressures following the recent global economic downturn. The recent rise in the proportion of the banking sector's capital was mostly caused by a large amount of new equity issued in late 2008 and mid 2009. Added to this, risk-weighted assets of banks have seen limited increases, due to changes in the composition and growth of banks' loan portfolios.

These capital ratio increases are similar in size to those which took place in the early 1990s when Australia experienced a recession and strong market pressures compelled banks to improve their capital position.

Why this progress indicator?

The amount of money banks keep in reserve tells us about how prudent the financial sector is as part of the aspiration for a resilient economy.

The total capital base ratio is considered a good measure of progress for a prudent financial sector because bank failures can be highly disruptive to the economy. National regulators therefore promote resilience in the banking sector by specifying a minimum amount of capital that banks must hold and the form that capital should take in relation to their likelihood of incurring losses. The likelihood of loss is measured by quantifying a bank's credit, market and operational risks, giving rise to a metric called 'risk-weighted assets'.

Australia is committed to international agreements for prudential standards in banking. To help meet this commitment, the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA) currently requires all locally incorporated banks to hold total capital of at least 8 per cent of their risk-weighted assets. This requirement is gradually transitioning to 10.5 per cent by 2019.

Quality assessment (see key)



This indicator is a partial measure of prudent financial sector.



The data source is of high quality.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to a resilient economy than a prudent financial sector. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of a resilient economy have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

A data gap currently exists for information about the economy

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

A range of possible indicators have been considered for measuring whether information about the economy is progressing, but no suitable measure has currently been identified. Information is a critical element in a modern society as the economy, society and governments require accurate information upon which to make decisions. The information may be formal in nature, for example academic papers, news items, statistical publications, or informal. It may be transmitted by various media and by personal interactions. The information flows are continuous, diverse in subject matter, high volume and of variable

quality. The challenge is to determine an indicator that reflects how well served society is by its economic information system. Not surprisingly, there are a large number of measures specific to types of formally organised and transmitted information flows, but very little that might adequately summarise the volume, diversity and quality of information, let alone form a view on whether the information system is improving. Basic research into an information system measurement framework is required before being able to evaluate existing partial indicators. Despite the importance of information, we are unaware of any research towards such a framework, nor plans to undertake such work.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to a resilient economy than information about the economy. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of a resilient economy have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.



Further info for a resilient economy

Need some more info on the a resilient economy theme? Hopefully this page can point you in the right direction

Contents

Useful links

Glossary

References

Graph summary

This page contains the following further information for a resilient economy:

- Useful links
- Glossary
- References
- Graph summary

USEFUL LINKS

ABS Topics @ a Glance - Economy page

ABS Topics @ a Glance - National Accounts

ABS Topics @ a Glance - Labour

ABS Topics @ a Glance - Inflation and Price Indexes

ABS Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product (cat. no. 5206.0)

ABS Australian System of National Accounts (cat. no. 5204.0)

ABS Consumer Price Index (cat. no. 6401)

ABS Consumer Price Index: Concepts, Sources and Methods (cat. no. 6461.0)

ABS Key Economic Indicators (cat. no. 1345.0)

ABS Labour Force, Australia, Detailed (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)

Reserve Bank Australia - Historical statistics

GLOSSARY

Chain Price Index

An annually-reweighted Laspeyres price index. This can be thought of as a series of indexes measuring price change from a base year to quarters in the following year using current price values in the base year as weights, linked together to form a continuous time series.

Consumer Price Index (CPI)

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) provides a general measure of change in prices of consumer goods and services purchased by Australian households. It measures quarterly changes in the price of a 'basket' of goods and services which account for a high proportion of expenditure by the CPI population group (i.e. capital city households). This 'basket' covers a wide range of goods and services, including items such as food, clothing, housing, health, transport, education and recreation to name a few. The CPI used for the purposes of this publication is the weighted average of eight capital cities.

Final Consumption Expenditure

Final Consumption Expenditure consists of expenditure on consumption goods and services, including imputed expenditure, incurred by general government, resident households and non-profit institutions serving households.

Gross domestic product (GDP)

Gross domestic product is the total market value of goods and services produced in Australia within a given period after deducting the cost of goods and services used up in the process of production, but before deducting allowances for the consumption of fixed capital. Thus gross domestic product, as here defined, is 'at market prices'. It is equivalent to gross national expenditure plus exports of goods and services less imports of goods and services.

Gross Fixed Capital Formation

Gross Fixed Capital Formation is the value of producers' acquisitions, less disposals, of fixed assets during the period. Fixed assets are tangible or intangible assets produced as outputs from processes of production that are themselves used repeatedly in other processes of production for more than one year.

Hours worked

The hours worked by all labour engaged in the production of goods and services, including hours worked by civilian wage and salary earners, employers, self-employed persons, persons working one hour or more without pay in a family business or on a farm, and members of the Australian defence forces.

Inflation

A term commonly used to refer to changes in price levels. A rise in prices is called inflation, while a fall is called deflation.

Risk-weighted assets

A bank's assets or off-balance sheet exposures, weighted according to risk.

REFERENCES

Economic Planning Advisory Council, 1990, Office of EPAC Seminar 1990: Australia's Inflation Problem, AGPS, Canberra.

Reserve Bank of Australia, 2010, Measures of Underlying Inflation, Bulletin, March Quarter 2010
<www.rba.gov.au>

Click on the links below to be taken to a summary of the graphs from the corresponding tab within the a resilient economy theme:

Overall progress?

Flexibility

Stability

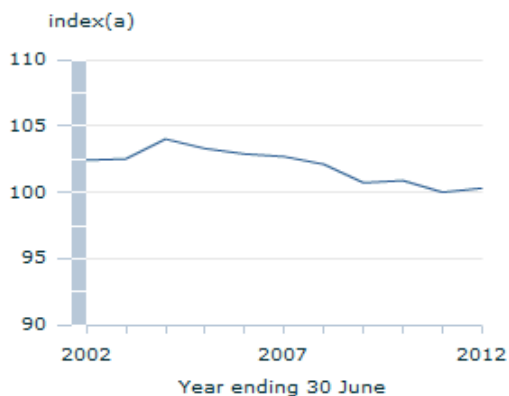
Prudent financial sector

OVERALL PROGRESS?

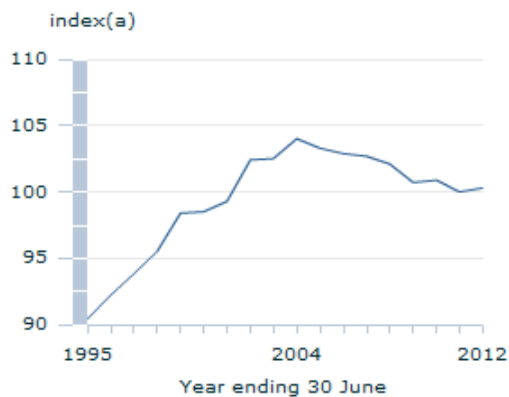
Multifactor productivity

Headline progress indicator

...over the longer term



Footnote:
(a) Reference year for index is 2010-11 = 100.0.
Source:
ABS Australian System of National Accounts, 2011-12 (cat. no. 5204.0)



Footnote:
(a) Reference year for index is 2010-11 = 100.0.
Source:
ABS Australian System of National Accounts, 2011-12 (cat. no. 5204.0)
[Back to top](#)

FLEXIBILITY

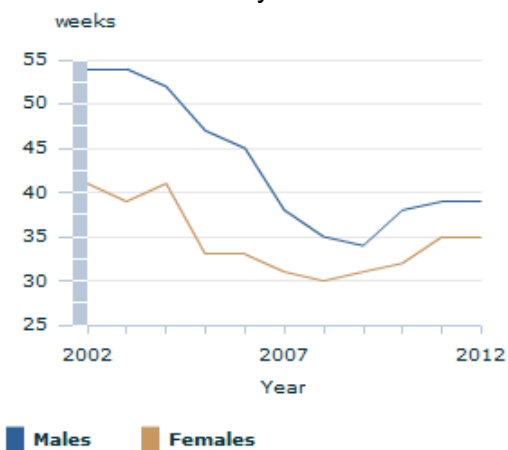
Average duration of unemployment

Progress indicator

...by sex



Source:
ABS Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery, Jul 2013 (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)



Source:
ABS Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery, Jul 2013 (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)

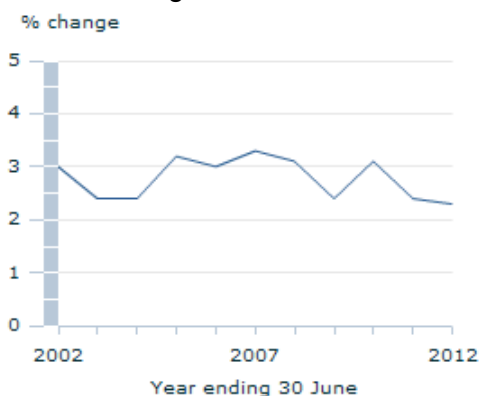
[Back to top](#)

STABILITY

Consumer price index

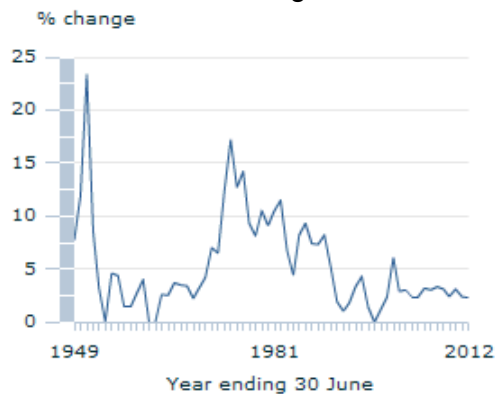
Progress indicator

...over the longer term

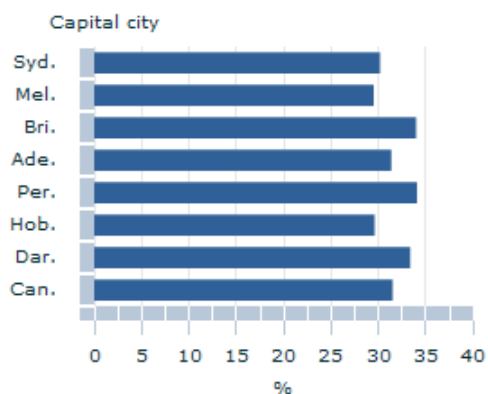


Source:
ABS Consumer Price Index, Australia, Jun 2013 (cat. no. 6401.0)

...ten year growth by capital city



Source:
ABS Consumer Price Index, Australia, Jun 2013 (cat. no. 6401.0)



CPI growth, 2001-02 to 2011-12

Source:
ABS Consumer Price Index, Australia, Jun 2013 (cat. no. 6401.0)

[Back to top](#)

PRUDENT FINANCIAL SECTOR

Total capital base ratio

Progress indicator



Source:
Reserve Bank of Australia, Historical Statistics -Banks - Consolidated
Group Capital, (data collected by APRA)

[Back to top](#)



Enhancing living standards

Australians aspire to an economy that sustains and enhances living standards into the future

Overall progress? **Overall progress?**

Buying power **Buying power**

Government finances **Government**

Economic resources **Economic**

Environmental resources **Environmental**

Presence and availability of human resources **Human**

Innovation for change **Innovation**



Enhancing living standards in Australia have progressed over the last decade

Indicator: Real net national disposable income per capita

Why is this theme important?

Australians told us that sustaining economic performance over the long term was important. During the consultation, people said they wanted an economy that meets the needs of Australians today without compromising the needs of future generations. This means sustaining resources, services and infrastructure that underpin social functioning, and protecting,

Source(s): ABS Australian System of National Accounts, 2011-12 (cat. no. 5204.0)

Australians thought innovation was important to the economy to improve productivity and to find solutions to economic, social and environmental challenges.

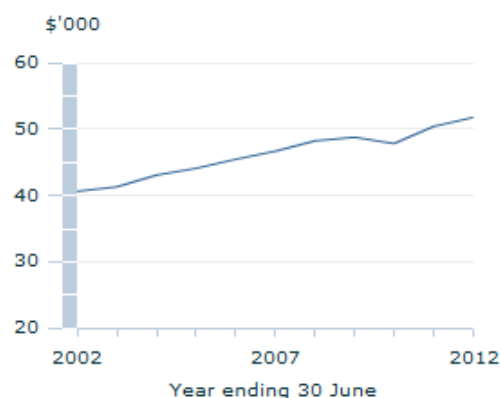
How have we decided there has been progress?

We have decided that living standards in Australia have progressed over the last decade because real net national disposable income per capita (our headline progress indicator for enhancing living standards) has increased.

During the decade 2001-02 to 2011-12, Australia's real net national disposable income grew from \$40,600 per person to \$51,800 per person in 2010-11 dollars. Year-on-year growth of around 2-3% was consistent for most of the decade, with only the 2009-10 financial year recording a decline in real net national disposable income per capita (-2%), this represents a sustained improvement in the living standards of Australians.

The recent strong growth in Australia's real net national disposable income per capita highlights a significant divergence which has taken place between Australian real income and domestic production growth rates over recent years. On an annual basis between 2001-02 and 2011-12, gross domestic product (GDP) per capita increased by 1.5% on average while real net national disposable income per capita increased by 2.5% on average. This divergence is significant as the real income growth generally tracks GDP growth over the long term. However, Australia's terms of trade have nearly doubled between 2001-02 and 2011-12 and the resulting trading gain has driven tremendous growth in real domestic income relative to domestic production of goods and services.

Real net national disposable income per capita(a)



■ Disposable income

Footnote (a) Reference year is 2010-11.

Source ABS Australian System of National Accounts, 2011-12 (cat. no. 5204.0)

Footnote(s): (a) Reference year is 2010-11.

A more detailed discussion about recent trends in Australian real income growth can be found in 'Recent trends in real income growth' in ABS Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product, Mar 2013 (cat. no. 5206.0).

Why this headline progress indicator?

National income is an important part of the aspiration for enhancing living standards.

Real net national disposable income per capita is considered a good measure of progress for enhancing living standards, because it is an indicator of Australians' capacity to consume goods and services. Real net national disposable income is a key measure of Australia's economic wellbeing. Increasing real income allows Australian residents to purchase a greater quantity of food, clothing, housing, utilities, health care, education and other good and services. An increase in the measure indicates not only a greater capacity for current consumption, but also an increased capacity to accumulate wealth (e.g. houses, machinery, financial assets) which may be used to generate income to support future consumption. While this indicator provides insight into how sustainable living standards have been over the recent period, the indicator cannot tell us how sustainable the economy will be into the future.

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is a partial measure of the concept of enhancing living standards as described above (based on Aspirations for our Nation).



The data source is of high quality.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to enhancing living standards than real net national disposable income per capita. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of enhancing living standards have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

Buying power in Australia has progressed over the last decade

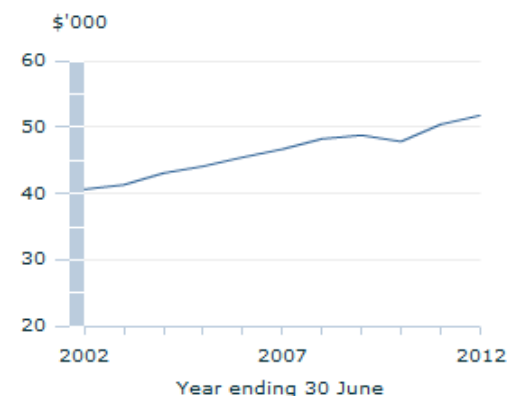
Indicator: Real net national disposable income per capita

Why is this element important?

Buying power is an important aspect of progress as it determines the ability of people to consume a greater quantity of goods and services from a given level of income. Increased buying power provides the means to secure a higher level of wellbeing through the consumption of goods and services, such as food, clothing, education and health care. Decreased buying power reduces the capacity to consume goods and services and will increase the likelihood that people may be unable to afford basic necessities. In the context of enhancing living standards, increased buying power supports future generations through the greater capacity to invest in assets, including infrastructure and research and development, to secure future benefits.

Source(s): ABS Australian System of National Accounts, 2011-12 (cat. no. 5204.0)

Real net national disposable income per capita(a)



■ Disposable income

Footnote (a) Reference year is 2010-11.

Source ABS Australian System of National Accounts, 2011-12 (cat. no. 5204.0)

Footnote(s): (a) Reference year is 2010-11.

Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about enhancing living standards.

How have we decided there has been progress?

We have decided buying power in Australia has progressed over the last decade because real net national disposable income per capita (our progress indicator for buying power) has increased.

During the decade 2001-02 to 2011-12, Australia's real net national disposable income grew from \$40,600 per person to \$51,800 per person in 2010-11 dollars. Year-on-year growth of around 2-3% was consistent for most of the decade, with only the 2010-11 financial year recording a decline in real net national disposable income per capita (-2%) during the global financial crisis. Overall, Australian buying power has been lifted over the past decade due to growth in domestic production as well as strong gains in the economy's terms of trade.

The recent strong growth in Australia's real net national disposable income per capita highlights a significant divergence which has taken place between Australian real income and domestic production growth rates over recent years. On an annual basis between 2001-02 and 2011-12, gross domestic product (GDP) per capita increased by 1.5% on average while real net national disposable income per capita increased by 2.5%. This divergence is significant as the real income growth generally tracks GDP growth over the long term. However, Australia's terms of trade have nearly doubled between 2001-02 and 2011-12 and the resulting trading gain has driven tremendous growth in real domestic income relative to domestic production of goods and services.

A more detailed discussion about recent trends in Australian real income growth can be found in 'Recent trends in real income growth' in ABS Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product, Mar 2013 (cat. no. 5206.0).

Why this progress indicator?

Real net national disposable income per capita tells us about buying power as part of the aspiration for enhancing living standards.

Real net national disposable income per capita is considered a good measure of progress for buying power because it measures the real purchasing power of domestic income. This measure is one of a series of real incomes which go beyond GDP to provide a more comprehensive picture of economic welfare and living standards. Increasing real income allows Australian residents to purchase a greater quantity of food, clothing, housing, utilities, health care, education and other goods and services. Moreover, growth in real income not only has benefits for current consumption, but can also be used to generate future income and support future consumption as well. This is because income can also be used to accumulate wealth and assets which can offer people benefits both now and in the future.

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is a partial measure of buying power.



The data source is of high quality.

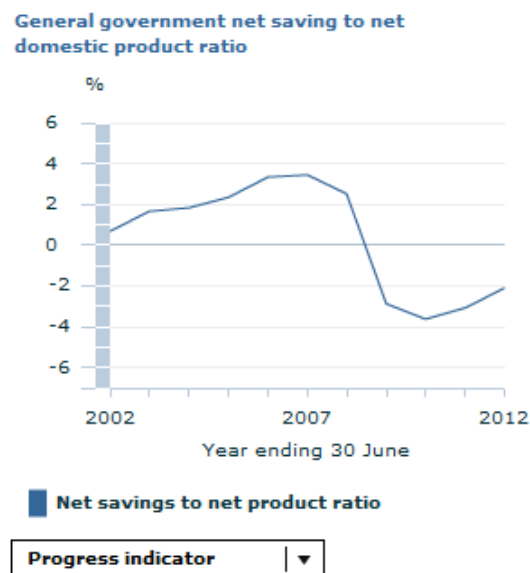
But that is not the whole story...

There is more to enhancing living standards than buying power. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of enhancing living standards have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

Government finances in Australia have regressed over the last decade

Indicator: General government saving ratio



Source ABS Australian System of National Accounts, 2011-12 (cat. no. 5204.0)

Source(s): ABS Australian System of National Accounts, 2011-12 (cat. no. 5204.0); ABS Australian System of National Accounts, 2011-12 (cat. no. 5204.0)

Why is this element important?

Australians told us that sustaining government finances into the future is a central part of enhancing living standards. Therefore ensuring that current economic performance and prosperity are not at the expense of the economic welfare of future generations is critical. As government is the key provider of non-market services, regulator of economic and social conditions, and functions to redistribute income between sectors of the community, it is important that these vital activities continue to be funded on a sustainable basis.

For government finances to remain sustainable, government revenue must cover current government expenditure relative to economic activity over the long term. General government net saving is the difference between government revenue, mainly sourced from taxation revenue, and government expenditure. Although the government will at times operate at a deficit, whereby general government net saving is negative, ongoing dissaving (the action of spending more than one has earned in a given period) will indicate that government finances are not sustainable.

Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about enhancing living standards.

How have we decided there has been regress?

We have decided that government finances in Australia have regressed over the last decade because the general government saving ratio (our progress indicator for government finances) has decreased.

Between 2001-02 and 2011-12, the general government net saving to net domestic product ratio decreased from 0.7% in 2001-02 to -2.1% in 2011-12. From 2001-02 to 2007-08, general government net saving was positive each year, peaking at 3.5% of net domestic product in 2006-07. Government net saving became negative in 2008-09 and has remained so since government expenditure consistently exceeded revenue. The beginning of this period of dissaving coincided with the global financial crisis. During this period, the general government net saving to net domestic product ratio also reached a low of -3.6% in 2009-10.

Why this progress indicator?

The general government net saving to net domestic product ratio is an important part of the aspiration for enhancing living standards.

The general government net savings ratio is considered a good measure of progress for government finances because it shows whether the government is saving or dissaving and how large this is relative

to the value of the Australian economy. This measure provides a good picture of the potential sustainability of government spending. In the long term, ongoing dissaving by general government is not sustainable but ongoing saving by general government may also be unsustainable as this may create significant distortions within the economy. However, government saving can be used to fund public or private investment which may generate future economic benefits.

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is a partial measure of government finances.



The data source is of high quality.

Let's break it down!

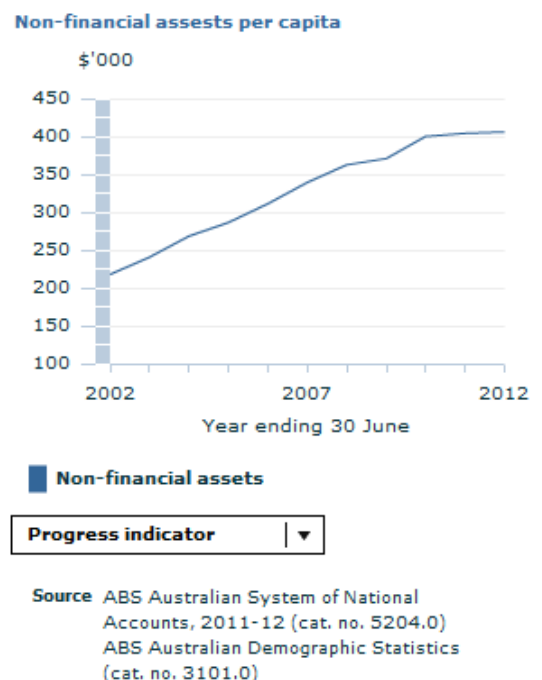
From the mid-1980s to the early 1990s, the general government net saving to net domestic product ratio increased steadily from -4.0% in 1985-86 to 0.1% in 1988-89. It then proceeded to decrease over the next few years, reaching a low of -6.0% in 1992-93 as government expenditure exceeded revenue in response to difficult economic conditions. The general government net saving to net domestic product ratio increased over most of the next decade and became positive in 1997-98 for the first time since 1988-89. From 1997-98 to 2007-08, it remained positive. However, it decreased sharply over the next two years and has remained negative as government finances have again been affected by global economic turbulence.

Use the drop down menu on the graph to look at other breakdowns of the indicator (graphs are also available on the further info page).

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to enhancing living standards than government finances. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of enhancing living standards have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.



Source(s): ABS Australian System of National Accounts, 2011-12 (cat. no. 5204.0); ABS Australian Demographic Statistics (cat. no. 3101.0); ABS Australian System of National Accounts, 2011-12 (cat. no. 5204.0); ABS Australian Demographic Statistics (cat. no. 3101.0)

The generation of economic resources in Australia has progressed over the last decade

Indicator: Non-financial assets per capita

Why is this element important?

Economic resources were seen as integral to enhancing living standards. Human welfare is intimately connected with the generation of wealth that economic activity allows. Without sufficient economic resources, the wellbeing of communities and individuals is not sustainable. This is why Australians told us they aspired to an economy that was able to generate economic resources for communities to meet the needs of today, and of the future. In particular, sustaining resources, services and infrastructure that are fundamental for economic prosperity and social cohesion are essential.

Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about enhancing living standards.

How have we decided there has been progress?

We have decided that economic resources in Australia have progressed over the decade because non-financial assets per capita (our progress indicator for economic resources) have increased.

Despite some fluctuation in the measure over time, change in non-financial assets per capita displayed a clear upwards trend between 2001-02 and 2011-12. In 2001-02, the figure was \$218,000 compared with \$406,000 in 2011-12. In the ten years from 1997-98 to 2007-08, the value of Australia's non-financial assets increased at an average of 8.3% per year. However, from 2008-09 to 2011-12 this growth has slowed to an average of 2.9% per year.

Why this progress indicator?

Non-financial assets per capita tells us about economic resources as part of the aspiration for enhancing living standards.

Non-financial assets per capita is considered a good measure of progress for economic resources as it measures the accumulated value of an economy's productive capital relative to its population. Non-financial assets are produced and non-produced assets which are usable in economic activity but also act as stores of value over time. These assets are either produced, e.g. machinery and buildings, or non-produced, land and subsoil assets.

The change in non-financial assets per capita shows the progress of an economy's accumulation of productive resources relative to its population during a particular period. A large positive figure indicates an increase in the economy's productive capacity through the acquisition of produced or non-produced assets, asset price growth or population decline. Conversely, a negative figure may indicate that there is a lack of investment in the economy, asset prices are falling or that its population growth is outstripping the rate of capital stock growth.

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is a partial measure of economic resources.



The data source is of high quality.

Let's break it down!

The value of Australia's non-financial assets per capita has grown significantly over the last 20 years. There has been a clear upwards trend in the value of non-financial assets per capita over this period but its growth has recently slowed. Nevertheless, the value of Australia's non-financial assets per capita have more than tripled over the last two decades from \$120,000 in 1988-89 to \$406,000 in 2011-12.

Use the drop down menu on the graph to look at other breakdowns of the indicator (graphs are also available on the further info page).

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to enhancing living standards than economic resources. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of enhancing living standards have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

A data gap currently exists for environmental resources

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

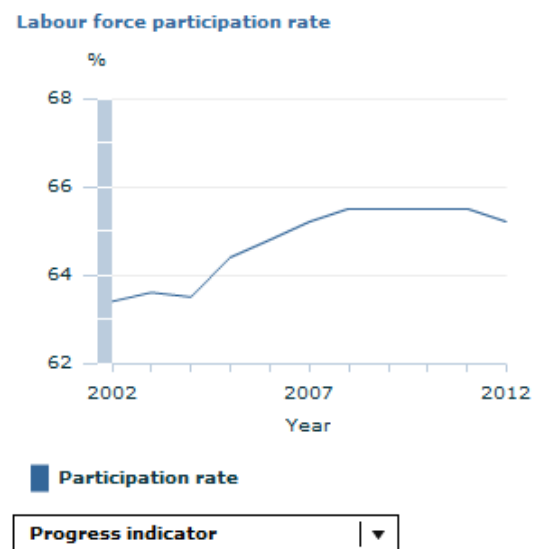
1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

A range of possible indicators have been considered for environmental resources but no single measure was considered sufficiently comprehensive. A suitable measure should provide an indication of the total level of environmental resources in Australia including those not classified as economic assets. Although a large range of data are available about these resources, coverage is generally limited to economic assets including land, subsoil and cultivated biological assets. What distinguishes economic assets from other environmental resources is that ownership rights over them have been clearly established and effectively enforced. The absence of these ownership rights makes it very difficult to value other environmental resources. In order to capture the spirit of this idea in a measure, further development would need to be undertaken.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to enhancing living standards than environmental resources. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of enhancing living standards have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.



Source ABS Labour Force, Australia, Jul 2013
(cat. no. 6202.0)

Source(s): ABS Labour Force, Australia, Jul 2013 (cat. no. 6202.0); ABS Labour Force, Australia, Jul 2013 (cat. no. 6202.0);
ABS Labour Force, Australia, Jul 2013 (cat. no. 6202.0)

The presence and availability of human resources in Australia have not changed greatly over the last decade

Indicator: Labour force participation rate

Why is this element important?

Human resources are an integral part of enhancing living standards. An economy's labour force is composed of a diverse range of individuals who each possess particular skills and knowledge. These

human resources are developed over time and represent years of accumulated education, training and experience across a wide range of occupations and jobs. A sustainable economy depends on the presence and availability of these resources to ensure continued economic progress and development. As the economy continues to advance, the importance of human resources increases in step with the pace of technological progress and innovation. An economy's human resources represent the skills and knowledge of its labour force which are vital for ensuring labour force participation and economic sustainability into the future.

Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about enhancing living standards.

How have we decided things haven't changed greatly?

We have decided the presence and availability of human resources in Australia has not changed greatly over the last decade because the labour force participation rate (our progress indicator for human resources) hasn't moved much.

For there to be improvement in the presence and availability of human resources in Australia, we would expect to see discernible growth in the labour force participation rate.

In 2002, 63% of the population were engaged in the labour force and this rate has only increased to 65% in 2012.

Why this progress indicator?

The labour force participation rate tells us about the presence and availability of human resources as part of the aspiration for enhancing living standards.

The labour force participation rate is considered a good measure of progress for the presence and availability of human resources because it indicates the relative size of the labour force to the population. This measure is defined as the total number of people in Australia who employed or actively looking for work and available to work, expressed as a percentage of the population. Most people in Australia participate in the labour force at some stage in their lives, and paid employment is financially and personally important to people. Labour force participation changes as people join or leave the labour force, and may be affected by other decisions such as combining employment with study or family responsibilities and the underlying population structure. There is considerable interest in labour force participation from both a social and economic perspective.

The labour force participation rate shows the extent to which Australians are engaged (or potentially engaged) in employment. An increase in this rate would indicate that a higher proportion of people who are not currently in the labour force were able to secure employment or make their labour available to the labour market. Conversely, a decline in the labour force participation rate would indicate that a lower proportion of people were not actively looking for work or were not engaged in paid employment. The measure therefore shows the proportion of people whose human resources are being used or available for use in the labour force.

However, the labour force participation rate does not distinguish whether those who are employed would prefer to work additional hours than they currently do. It therefore does not provide an indication of underemployment within the labour force. A more detailed discussion about labour force measures can be found in 'Understanding the Labour Force' in ABS Labour Force, Australia, Feb 2013 (cat. no. 6202.0).

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is an indirect measure of the presence and availability of human resources.



The data source is of high quality.

Let's break it down!

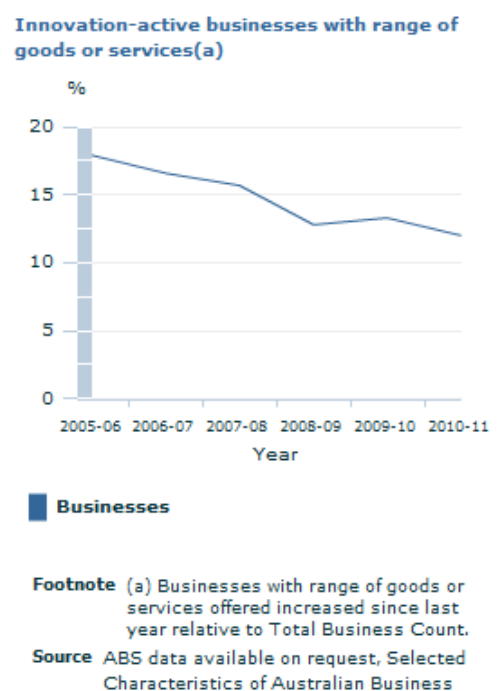
Although the rate has not dramatically changed over the previous decade, if we consider a longer period there has been a discernible increase. The main factor behind the long-term increase in the labour force participation rate has been an increase in female participation, which has risen from 44% in 1979 to 59% in 2012. In contrast, male participation fell from 78% to 72% over the same period. The overall labour force participation rate has therefore increased from 61% in 1979 to 65% in 2012.

Use the drop down menu on the graph to look at other breakdowns of the indicator (graphs are also available on the further info page).

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to enhancing living standards than the presence and availability of human resources. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of enhancing living standards have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.



Footnote(s): (a) Businesses with range of goods or services offered increased since last year relative to Total Business Count.

Source(s): ABS data available on request, Selected Characteristics of Australian Business

Innovation for change in Australia has regressed over the last decade

Indicator: Product expansion by innovative businesses rate

Why is this element important?

Innovation is an important part of enhancing living standards. Through innovation, improvements to productivity and problems of economic, social and environmental nature can be further understood and solved. Innovation for change is important for all of society as it faces future challenges and creates opportunities. Innovation was considered to be important to private enterprise but its benefits also flow on to affect the community more generally. An innovative business environment sees new or improved products brought to the market and available to potential consumers.

Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about enhancing living standards.

How have we decided there has been regress?

We have decided innovation for change in Australia has regressed over the last decade because the product expansion by innovative businesses rate (our progress indicator for innovation for change) has

decreased.

Between 2005-06 and 2010-11, the ratio of the number of businesses who are both innovation-active and have increased their range of goods and services offered in the last year to the total number of businesses decreased almost by a third, from 17.9% to 12.0%.

Why this progress indicator?

Innovation-active businesses are an important part of the aspiration for enhancing living standards.

Product expansion by innovative businesses is considered a good measure of progress for innovation for change because this measure shows the relative extent to which businesses have actively innovated and also increased or decreased their range of goods and services offered.

One of the key drivers of change in the economy, to improve productivity and find solutions to economic, social and environmental challenges, is innovation. Expansion in the range of goods and services offered by businesses provides an indication of the effectiveness of innovative activity to meet consumer, business, economic, social and environmental needs. An increase in this indicator would suggest progress in innovation by businesses to meet these needs and a decrease would suggest businesses are regressing in this regard.

This indicator is only a partial measure of innovation as it excludes outcomes of innovation (besides new products and services). Although product expansion is a key outcome of innovation, businesses also innovate to make improvements and find solutions in other areas including operational, organisational and managerial processes and marketing methods. Many of these other aspects of innovation are captured under a separate aspiration, innovation for efficiency.

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is a partial measure of innovation for change.



The data source is of high quality.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to enhancing living standards than innovation for change. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of enhancing living standards have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.



Further info for enhancing living standards

Need some more info on the enhancing living standards theme? Hopefully this page can point you in the right direction

Contents

Useful links

Glossary

References

Graph summary

This page contains the following further information for enhancing living standards:

- Useful links
- Glossary
- References
- Graph summary

USEFUL LINKS

ABS Topics @ a Glance - Government Finance Statistics

ABS Information Paper: Accruals-Based Government Finance Statistics (cat.no. 5517.0)

ABS Australian Labour Market Statistics (cat.no. 6105.0)

ABS Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product (cat. no. 5206.0)

- Feature Article: Recent Trends in Real Income Growth - Mar 2013

ABS Australian System of National Accounts (cat. no. 5204.0)

ABS Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0)

- Understanding the Australian Labour Force Using ABS Statistics - Feb 2012

ABS Selected Characteristics of Australian Business, 2010-11 (cat.no. 8167.0)

GLOSSARY

Gross domestic product (GDP)

Is the total market value of goods and services produced in Australia within a given period after deducting the cost of goods and services used up in the process of production but before deducting allowances for the consumption of fixed capital. Thus gross domestic product, as here defined, is 'at market prices'. It is equivalent to gross national expenditure plus exports of goods and services less imports of goods and services. Farm product is that part of gross domestic product which arises from production in agriculture and services to agriculture. It is equivalent to the value added of ANZSIC 06 subdivision 01 'Agriculture' plus taxes less subsidies on products primary to this subdivision. Non-farm product arises from production in all other industries.

Innovation

The introduction of a new or significantly improved good or service; operational process; organisational/managerial process; or marketing method.

Innovation-active businesses

Businesses which had undertaken any innovative activity during the reference period including: introduction of any type of innovation; and/or the development or introduction either still in progress or abandoned. See Innovation.

Innovative activity

Innovative activity includes any work that was intended to, or did, result in the introduction of an innovation.

The scope of the estimates in this publication consists of all business entities in the Australian economy,

except for the following sectors and industries:

- SCSA 3000 General government;
- ANZSIC06 Division O Public administration and safety;
- ANZSIC06 Division P Education and training;
- ANZSIC06 Groups 624 (Financial asset investing) and 633 (Superannuation funds);
- ANZSIC06 Groups 854 (Religious services) and 955 (Civic, professional and other interest group services);
- ANZSIC06 Subdivision 96 Private households employing staff.

Net domestic product (NDP)

Calculated as GDP less consumption of fixed capital.

Net saving - general government

The surplus of general government gross income over current use of income. Current use of income includes final consumption expenditure and current transfers (interest and other property income payable, social assistance benefits payments to residents, transfers to non-profit institutions, subsidies, etc.).

Non-financial assets

Non-financial assets are assets for which no corresponding liabilities are recorded.

Non-produced assets

Non-produced assets are non-financial assets that come into existence other than through processes of production. Non-produced assets that occur in nature is where ownership has been enforced or transferred. Environmental assets over which ownership rights have not, or cannot, be enforced, such as international waters or air space, are excluded. They consist of Natural resources (such as land, subsoil assets, native standing timber and radio spectra); Contracts, leases and licences; and Purchased goodwill and marketing assets. Purchased goodwill and marketing assets are not included in the Australian System of National Accounts. (ASNA).

Per capita

Population estimates use data published in the quarterly publication Australian Demographic Statistics (cat.no.3101.0) and ABS projections.

Produced assets

Produced assets are non-financial assets that have come into existence as outputs from production processes. Produced assets consist of fixed assets, inventories and valuables. However, valuables are not included in the ASNA.

Range of goods and services: Increased since last year

The reference period for most of the characteristics items included in the 2010-11 BCS is the year ended 30 June 2011. Financial data relate to the most recent financial year ended on or before 30 September 2011.

Real net national disposable income

Calculated by:

- taking real gross domestic income;
- deducting real incomes payable to the rest of the world;
- adding real incomes receivable from the rest of the world; and
- deducting the volume measure of consumption of fixed capital.

Real incomes payable and receivable are calculated by dividing the nominal income flows by the implicit price deflator for gross national expenditure. In the derivation of the aggregate, all of the adjustments are

made using the chain volume aggregation method used to derive all of the ABS chain volume estimates.

There are no references for this theme

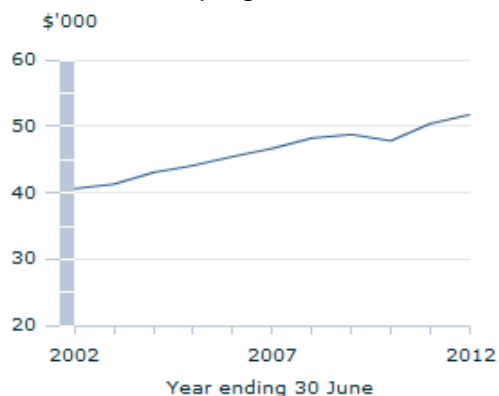
Click on the links below to be taken to a summary of the graphs from the corresponding tab within the enhancing living standards theme:

Overall progress?
Buying power
Government finances
Economic resources
Human resources
Innovation for change

OVERALL PROGRESS?

Real net national disposable income per capita(a)

Headline progress indicator



Footnote:

(a) Reference year is 2010-11.

Source:

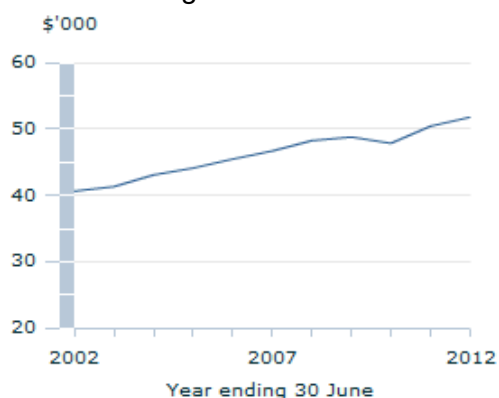
ABS Australian System of National Accounts, 2011-12 (cat. no. 5204.0)

[Back to top](#)

BUYING POWER

Real net national disposable income per capita(a)

Progress indicator



Footnote:

(a) Reference year is 2010-11.

Source:

ABS Australian System of National Accounts, 2011-12 (cat. no. 5204.0)

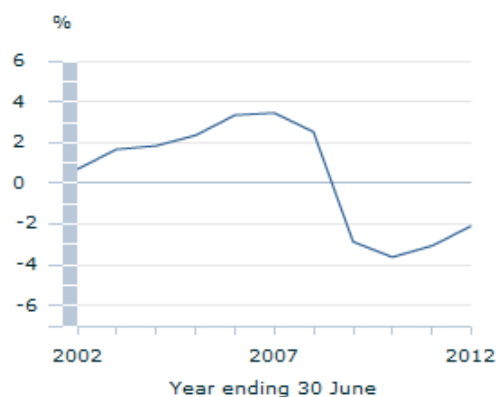
[Back to top](#)

GOVERNMENT FINANCES

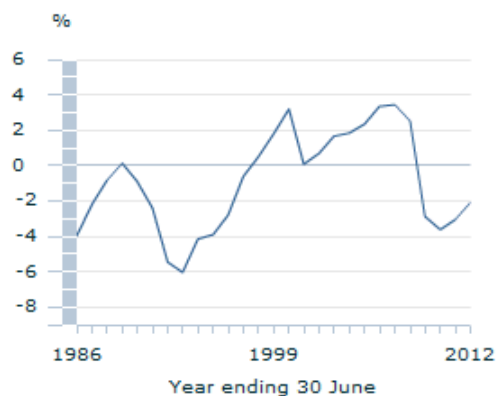
General government net saving to net domestic product ratio

Progress indicator

...over the longer term



Source:
ABS Australian System of National Accounts, 2011-12 (cat. no. 5204.0)



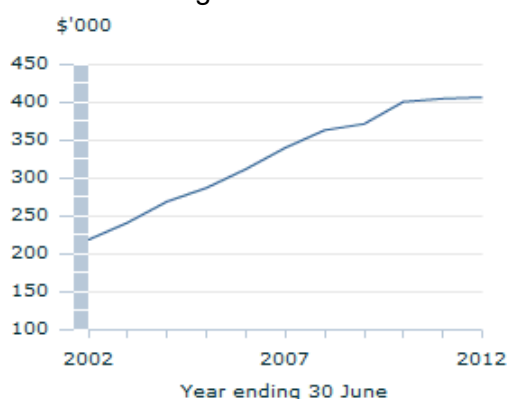
Source:
ABS Australian System of National Accounts, 2011-12 (cat. no. 5204.0)
[Back to top](#)

ECONOMIC RESOURCES

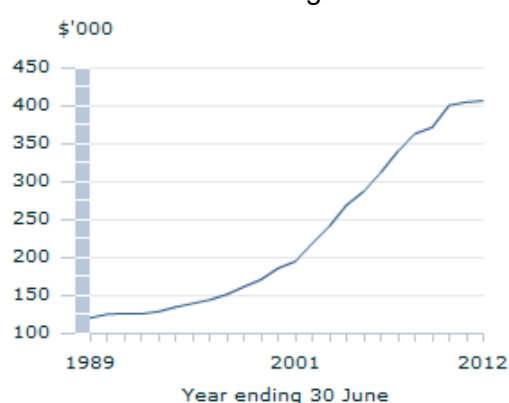
Non-financial assets per capita

Progress indicator

...over the longer term



Source:
ABS Australian System of National Accounts, 2011-12 (cat. no. 5204.0)
ABS Australian Demographic Statistics (cat. no. 3101.0)



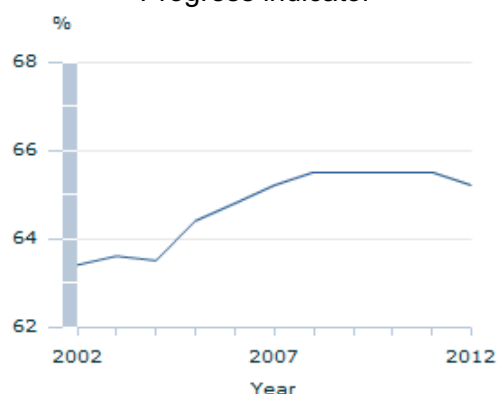
Source:
ABS Australian System of National Accounts, 2011-12 (cat. no. 5204.0)
ABS Australian Demographic Statistics (cat. no. 3101.0)
[Back to top](#)

HUMAN RESOURCES

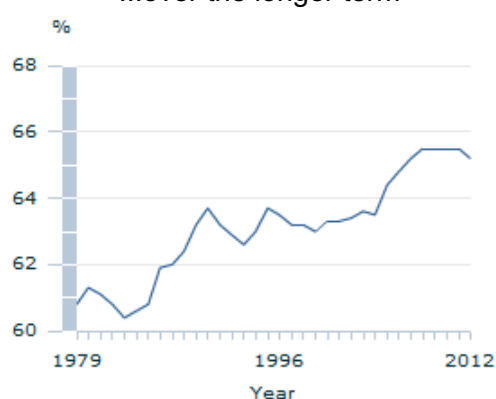
Labour force participation rate

Progress indicator

...over the longer term

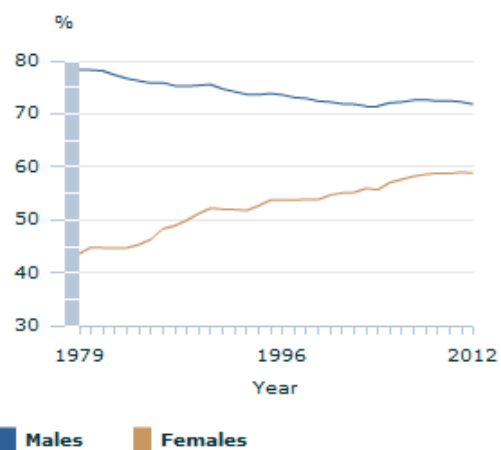


Source:
ABS Labour Force, Australia, Jul 2013 (cat. no. 6202.0)



Source:
ABS Labour Force, Australia, Jul 2013 (cat. no. 6202.0)

...over the longer term by sex



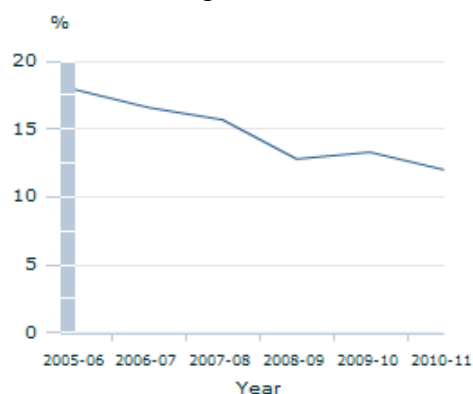
Source:
ABS Labour Force, Australia, Jul 2013 (cat. no. 6202.0)

[Back to top](#)

INNOVATION FOR CHANGE

Innovation-active businesses with range of goods or services(a)

Progress indicator



Footnote:
(a) Businesses with range of goods or services offered increased since last year relative to Total Business Count.

Source:
ABS data available on request, Selected Characteristics of Australian Business

[Back to top](#)



Fair outcomes

Australians aspire to an economy that supports fair outcomes

Overall progress? **Overall progress?**

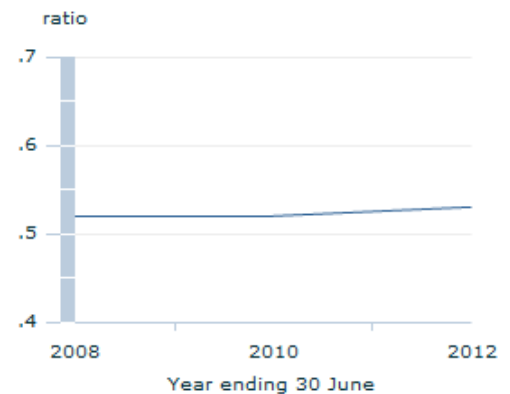
Living standards **Living standards**

Equity **Equity**

Economic disadvantage **Disadvantage**

Shared contribution and responsibility **Contribution**

Ratio of income received by low income households relative to middle income households (a)(b)



Ratio of income

Footnote (a) Household income measured at the 10th percentile (P10) and the median (P50) are used in the calculation of this ratio (P10/P50 ratio). (b) Household income has been equivalised and adjusted to include imputed rent.

Source ABS Household Income and Income Distribution, Australia (cat. no. 6523.0)

Footnote(s): (a) Household income measured at the 10th percentile (P10) and the median (P50) are used in the calculation of this ratio (P10/P50 ratio). (b) Household income has been equivalised and adjusted to include imputed rent.

Source(s): ABS Household Income and Income Distribution, Australia (cat. no. 6523.0)



Fair outcomes in Australia have not changed greatly in recent years

Indicator: Ratio of income received by low income households relative to middle income households

Why is this theme important?

Australians told us that it was important that all Australians shared equitably in economic progress. Many share concerns about disadvantage and inequity and want to ensure all Australians have basic standards of living. In particular, there is a feeling that people should have opportunities to improve their wellbeing, regardless of differences in education, socioeconomic background or other factors. Moreover, many believe that contributing to these balanced economic outcomes should be the shared responsibility of individuals, governments and the private sector.

How have we decided things haven't changed greatly?

We have decided that there has been little change in fair outcomes in Australia in recent years because the ratio of income received by low income households relative to middle income households (our headline progress indicator for fair outcomes) hasn't moved much.

In order for there to be improvement in fair outcomes, we would expect to see an increase in the ratio,

indicating that the income received by households on the lower end of the income scale is moving closer towards the population median.

In 2007-08, the ratio of income received by low income households (measured at the 10th percentile of the income distribution) relative to middle income households (measured using the population median) was 0.52. Four years later in 2011-12, the ratio was similar at 0.53. This ratio tells us that households with low incomes receive slightly more than half the amount of income as households in the middle of the distribution (53% in 2011-12).

Why this headline progress indicator?

The level of income received by different households is an important part of the aspiration for an economy that supports fair outcomes.

The ratio of income received by low income households relative to middle income households is considered a good measure of progress for fair outcomes because it shows how the income of households with very low incomes compare to households with average income. Using income percentiles, the measure summarises the relative distance between the income received by low income households and households in the middle of the distribution. If the ratio (also known as the P10/P50 ratio) was to decrease, this would suggest movement towards greater income disparity (as measured by this indicator). Conversely, an increase in the ratio would suggest a movement towards greater income equity among Australian households.

The ratio published here is adjusted to include imputed rent. The inclusion of imputed rent allows for meaningful comparison of the income circumstances of people living in different tenure types, changes over time in income levels and the distribution of income.

This indicator also uses equivalised disposable household income. This means that the income households receive has been adjusted to account for differences in household size and composition. For example, a household comprising two people would normally need to receive more income than a lone person household to enjoy the same standard of living. While equivalised disposable household income allows for better comparisons between households, it also assumes that all individuals have the same resource needs if they are to enjoy the same standard of living.

For further information about the distribution of income in Australia, see ABS Household Income and Income Distribution, Australia (cat. no. 6523.0).

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is a partial measure of the concept of fair outcomes as described above (based on Aspirations for our Nation)



The data source is of high quality.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to fair outcomes than the ratio of income received by low income households relative to middle income households. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of fair outcomes have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

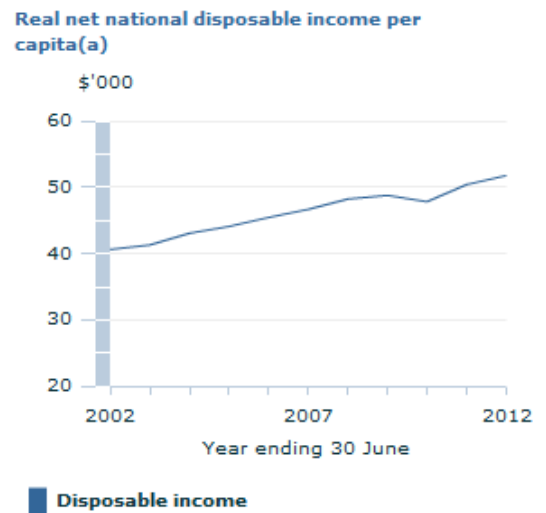
Living standards in Australia have progressed over the last decade

Indicator: Real net national disposable income per capita

Why is this element important?

Living standards are an important aspect of progress as they determine people's ability to consume goods and services thereby supporting their wellbeing. In order to maintain a high level of wellbeing, people must consume a sufficient quantity of goods, such as food and clothing, and services, such as education and health care. When living standards are low, there is an increased likelihood that people will be unable to acquire these items, impacting their quality of life.

Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about fair outcomes.



Footnote (a) Reference year is 2010-11.

Source ABS Australian System of National Accounts, 2011-12 (cat. no. 5204.0)

Footnote(s): (a) Reference year is 2010-11.

How have we decided there has been progress?

Source(s): ABS Australian System of National Accounts, 2011-12 (cat. no. 5204.0)

We have decided that living standards in Australia have progressed over the past decade because real net national disposable income per capita (our progress indicator for living standards) has increased.

During the decade 2001-02 to 2011-12, Australia's real net national disposable income grew from \$40,600 per person to \$51,800 per person. Year-on-year growth of around 2-3% was consistent for most of the decade, with only the 2009-10 financial year recording a decline in real net national disposable income per capita (-2%).

A more detailed discussion about recent trends in Australian real income growth can be found in 'Recent trends in real income growth' in ABS Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product, Mar 2013 (cat. no. 5206.0).

Why this progress indicator?

Real net national disposable income per capita tells us about living standards as part of the aspiration for fair outcomes.

Real net national disposable income per capita is considered a good measure of progress for living standards because it is an indicator of Australians' capacity to purchase goods and services for consumption. This measure is one of a series of real incomes which go beyond gross domestic product (GDP) to provide a more comprehensive picture of economic welfare and living standards. Increasing real income allows Australian residents to spend more on food, clothing, housing, utilities, health care, education and other goods and services. Moreover, growth in real income not only has benefits for current consumption, but can be used to generate future income and support future consumption as well. This is because income can also be used to accumulate assets which can offer people benefits both now and in the future.

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is a partial measure of living standards.



The data source is of high quality.

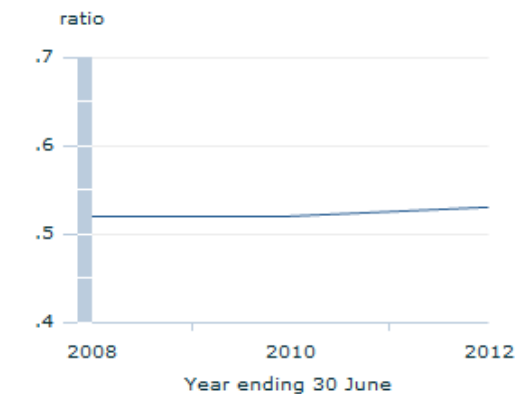
But that is not the whole story...

There is more to fair outcomes than living standards. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if

the other elements of fair outcomes have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

Ratio of income received by low income households relative to middle income households(a)(b)



Ratio of income

Footnote (a) Household income measured at the 10th percentile (P10) and the median (P50) are used in the calculation of this ratio (P10/P50 ratio). (b) Household income has been equivalised and adjusted to include imputed rent.

Source ABS Household Income and Income Distribution, Australia (cat. no. 6523.0)

Footnote(s): (a) Household income measured at the 10th percentile (P10) and the median (P50) are used in the calculation of this ratio (P10/P50 ratio). (b) Household income has been equivalised and adjusted to include imputed rent.

Source(s): ABS Household Income and Income Distribution, Australia (cat. no. 6523.0)

Equity in Australia has not changed greatly in recent years

Indicator: Ratio of income received by low income households relative to middle income households

Why is this element important?

A fair share amongst all Australians is an important part of measuring progress. Many Australians feel that as societies develop, it is essential to ensure that members of the community are fairly afforded the opportunities to maintain and enhance their level of wellbeing. Equitable societies not only provide benefits for each individual, but also at a broader level, contributing to social cohesion through a sense of justice and fair reward.

Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about fair outcomes.

How have we decided things haven't changed greatly?

We have decided that there has been little change in equity in Australia in recent years because the ratio of income received by low income households relative to middle income households (our progress indicator for equity) hasn't moved much.

In order for there to be improvement in equity, we would expect to see an increase in the ratio, indicating that the income received by households on the lower end of the income scale was moving closer towards the population median.

In 2007-08, the ratio of income received by low income households (measured at the 10th percentile of the income distribution) relative to middle income households (measured using the population median) was 0.52. Four years later in 2011-12, the ratio was similar at 0.53. This ratio tells us that households with low incomes receive slightly more than half the amount of income as households in the middle of the distribution (53% in 2011-12).

Why this progress indicator?

The level of income received by different households is an important part of the aspiration for fair outcomes.

The ratio of income received by low income households relative to middle income households is considered a good measure of progress for equity because it shows how the income of households with very low incomes compare to households with average income. Using income percentiles, the measure summarises the relative distance between the income received by low income households and households in the middle of the distribution. If the ratio (also known as the P10/P50 ratio) was to decrease, this would suggest movement towards greater income disparity (as measured by this indicator). Conversely, an increase in the ratio would suggest a movement towards greater income equity among Australian households.

The ratio published here is adjusted to include imputed rent. The inclusion of imputed rent allows for meaningful comparison of the income circumstances of people living in different tenure types, changes over time in income levels and the distribution of income.

This indicator also uses equivalised disposable household income. This means that the income households receive has been adjusted to account for differences in household size and composition. For example, a household comprising two people would normally need to receive more income than a lone person household to enjoy the same standard of living. While equivalised disposable household income allows for better comparisons between households, it also assumes that all individuals have the same resource needs if they are to enjoy the same standard of living.

For further information about the distribution of income in Australia, see ABS Household Income and Income Distribution, Australia (cat. no. 6523.0).

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is a partial measure of equity.



The data source is of high quality.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to fair outcomes than equity. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of fair outcomes have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

Economic disadvantage in Australia has not changed greatly in recent years

Indicator: Ratio of income received by low income households relative to middle income households

Why is this element important?

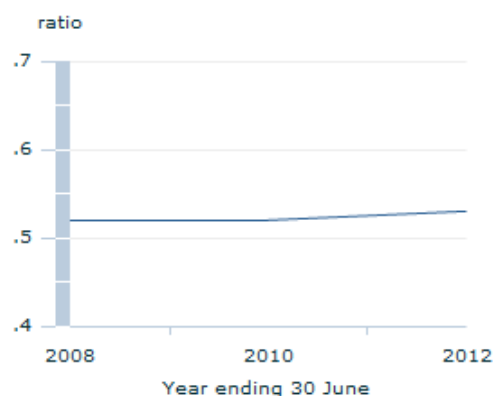
Economic disadvantage and inequity within communities is an issue of concern to many Australians. Reducing disadvantage is a wide-spread aspiration and an indication of a progressive and compassionate society. Societies with large populations of economically disadvantaged people may suggest a failure of communities, governments and the economy to adequately provide people with reasonable opportunities to develop and retain a basic standard of living.

Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about fair outcomes.

How have we decided things haven't changed greatly?

We have decided that there has been little change in economic disadvantage in Australia in recent years because the ratio of income received by low income households relative to middle income households

Ratio of income received by low income households relative to middle income households(a)(b)



Ratio of income

Footnote (a) Household income measured at the 10th percentile (P10) and the median (P50) are used in the calculation of this ratio (P10/P50 ratio). (b) Household income has been equivalised and adjusted to include imputed rent.

Source ABS Household Income and Income Distribution, Australia (cat. no. 6523.0)

Footnote(s): (a) Household income measured at the 10th percentile (P10) and the median (P50) are used in the calculation of this ratio (P10/P50 ratio). (b) Household income has been equivalised and adjusted to include imputed rent.

Source(s): ABS Household Income and Income Distribution, Australia (cat. no. 6523.0)

(our progress indicator for economic disadvantage) hasn't moved much.

In order for there to be improvement in economic disadvantage, we would expect to see an increase in the ratio, indicating that the income received by households on the lower end of the income scale were moving closer towards the population median.

In 2007-08, the ratio of income received by low income households (measured at the 10th percentile of the income distribution) relative to middle income households (measured using the population median) was 0.52. Four years later in 2011-12, the ratio was similar at 0.53. This ratio tells us that households with low incomes receive slightly more than half the amount of income as households in the middle of the distribution (53% in 2011-12).

Why this progress indicator?

The level of income received by different households is an important part of the aspiration for fair outcomes.

The ratio of income received by low income households relative to middle income households is considered a good measure of progress for economic disadvantage because it shows how the income of households with very low incomes compare to households with average income. Using income percentiles, the measure summarises the relative distance between the income received by low income households and households in the middle of the distribution. If the ratio (also known as the P10/P50 ratio) was to decrease, this would suggest movement towards greater income disparity (as measured by this indicator). Conversely, an increase in the ratio would suggest a movement towards greater income equity among Australian households.

The ratio published here is adjusted to include imputed rent. The inclusion of imputed rent allows for meaningful comparison of the income circumstances of people living in different tenure types, changes over time in income levels and the distribution of income.

This indicator also uses equivalised disposable household income. This means that the income households receive has been adjusted to account for differences in household size and composition. For example, a household comprising two people would normally need to receive more income than a lone person household to enjoy the same standard of living. While equivalised disposable household income allows for better comparisons between households, it also assumes that all individuals have the

same resource needs if they are to enjoy the same standard of living.

For further information about the distribution of income in Australia, see ABS Household Income and Income Distribution, Australia (cat. no. 6523.0).

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is a partial measure of economic disadvantage.

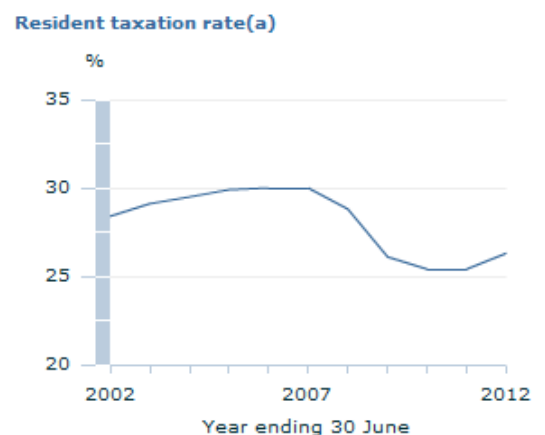


The data source is of high quality.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to fair outcomes than economic disadvantage. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of fair outcomes have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.



Taxation rate

Progress indicator

Footnote (a) Taxation revenue receivable from residents relative to gross disposable income excluding net taxation revenue receivable from non-residents.

Source ABS Australian System of National Accounts, 2011-12 (cat. no. 5204.0)

Footnote(s): (a) Taxation revenue receivable from residents relative to gross disposable income excluding net taxation revenue receivable from non-residents.;(a) Taxation revenue receivable from residents relative to gross disposable income excluding net taxation revenue receivable from non-residents.

Source(s): ABS Australian System of National Accounts, 2011-12 (cat. no. 5204.0); ABS Australian System of National Accounts, 2011-12 (cat. no. 5204.0)

Shared contribution and responsibility in Australia has regressed over the last decade

Indicator: Resident taxation rate

Why is this element important?

Shared contribution and responsibility is important to progress as it is about ensuring that everyone in the community contributes towards building the economy that supports fair outcomes. This obligation applies to individuals, and the public and private sectors due to the large role they play in the Australian economy.

Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about fair outcomes.

How have we decided there has been regress?

We have decided that shared contribution and responsibility in Australia has regressed over the last decade because the resident taxation rate (our progress indicator for shared contribution and responsibility) has decreased.

In 2001-02, taxes payable by residents to the Australian government were equal to 28.4% of their gross disposable income. While this grew gradually during the early part of the decade, the rate peaked at 30% in 2005-06, after which point the rate declined. In the 2011-12 financial year, the rate was 26.3% which is 2.1 percentage points lower than the decade previous.

Why this progress indicator?

The resident taxation rate tells us about shared contribution and responsibility as part of the aspiration for fair outcomes.

The resident taxation rate is considered a good measure of progress for shared contribution and responsibility because it measures the extent to which individuals and corporations contribute towards public administration through taxation. In order for governments to fund public works and programs that benefit the community, it is necessary that they collect revenue through taxation. The resident taxation rate measures the amount of taxes payable by residents (that is, both individuals and corporations) to the Australian government relative to their available gross disposable income. Progress is shown by an increase in this rate which indicates that Australians are collectively contributing a greater amount of their income to the community.

Quality assessment (see key)



This indicator is a partial measure of shared contribution and responsibility.



The data source is of high quality.

Let's break it down!

A more complete picture of tax liabilities is often gained by looking at historical trends. Since the early 1960s, the level of taxes payable relative to available income has generally trended upwards with significant declines only occurring during downturns in economic activity. The most recent decline in the taxation rate following the global financial crisis of 2007-08 is notable as it is a sustained reversal of the general upwards trend of the series over preceding years.

Use the drop down menu on the graph to look at other breakdowns of the indicator (graphs are also available on the further info page).

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to fair outcomes than shared contribution and responsibility. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of fair outcomes have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.



Further info for fair outcomes

Need some more info on the fair outcomes theme? Hopefully this page can point you in the right direction.

Contents

Useful links

Glossary

References

Graph summary

This page contains the following further information for fair outcomes:

- Useful links
- Glossary
- References
- Graph summary

USEFUL LINKS

ABS Topics @ a Glance - National Accounts

ABS Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product (cat. no. 5206.0)

- Feature Article: Recent Trends in Real Income Growth - Mar 2013

ABS Australian System of National Accounts (cat. no. 5204.0)

ABS Australian System of National Accounts: Concepts, Sources and Methods, Edition 3 (cat. no. 5216.0)

ABS Household Income and Income Distribution, Australia (cat. no. 6523.0)

GLOSSARY

Disposable income

Gross income less income tax, the Medicare levy and the Medicare levy surcharge i.e. remaining income after taxes are deducted, which is available to support consumption and/or saving. Income tax, Medicare levy and the Medicare levy surcharge are imputed based on each person's income and other characteristics as reported in the survey. Disposable income is sometimes referred to as net income.

Equivalised disposable household income

Disposable household income adjusted using an equivalence scale. For a lone person household it is equal to disposable household income. For a household comprising more than one person, it is an indicator of the disposable household income that would need to be received by a lone person household to enjoy the same level of economic wellbeing as the household in question.

Estimated resident population (ERP)

The estimated resident population (ERP) is the official measure of the population of Australia. It is based on the concept of usual residence. For the purpose of ERP, a person is regarded as a usual resident if they have been (or are expected to be) residing in Australia for a period of 12 months or more. As such, it refers to all people, regardless of nationality, citizenship or legal status who usually live in Australia, with the exception of foreign diplomatic personnel and their families.

Gross domestic product (GDP)

Is the total market value of goods and services produced in Australia within a given period after deducting the cost of goods and services used up in the process of production but before deducting allowances for the consumption of fixed capital. Thus gross domestic product, as here defined, is 'at market prices'. It is equivalent to gross national expenditure plus exports of goods and services less imports of goods and services. Farm product is that part of gross domestic product which arises from production in agriculture and services to agriculture. It is equivalent to the value added of ANZSIC 06

subdivision 01 'Agriculture' plus taxes less subsidies on products primary to this subdivision. Non-farm product arises from production in all other industries.

Imputed rent

The estimated market rent that a dwelling would attract if it were to be commercially rented. The addition of net imputed rent allows for more meaningful comparison of the income circumstances of people living in different tenure types. Including imputed rent as part of household income and expenditure conceptually treats owner-occupiers as if they were renting their home from themselves, thus simultaneously incurring rental expenditure and earning rental income. Imputed rent is included in income on a net basis i.e. the imputed value of the services received less the value of the housing costs incurred by the household in their role as landlord. For further information, ABS Household Income and Income Distribution, Australia, 2011-12 (cat. no. 6523.0).

Income

Income consists of all current receipts, whether monetary or in kind, that are received by the household or by individual members of the household, and which are available for, or intended to support, current consumption.

Income includes receipts from:

- wages and salaries and other receipts from employment (whether from an employer or own incorporated enterprise), including income provided as part of salary sacrificed and/or salary package arrangements;
- profit/loss from own unincorporated business (including partnerships);
- net investment income (interest, rent, dividends, royalties);
- government pensions and allowances; and
- private transfers (e.g. superannuation, workers' compensation, income from annuities, child support, and financial support received from family members not living in the same household).

Gross income is the sum of the income from all these sources before income tax, the Medicare levy and the Medicare levy surcharge are deducted. Other measures of income are Disposable income and Equivalised disposable household income.

Note that child support and other transfers from other households are not deducted from the incomes of the households making the transfers.

Non-resident

See 'Resident'.

Percentiles

When all households or persons in the population are ranked from the lowest to the highest on the basis of some characteristic such as their household income, they can then be divided into equal sized groups. Division into 100 groups gives percentiles. The highest value of the characteristic in the tenth percentile is denoted P10. The median or the top of the 50th percentile is denoted P50. P20, P80 and P90 denote the highest values in the 20th, 80th and 90th percentiles. Ratios of values at the top of selected percentiles, such as P90/P10, are often called percentile ratios. See Appendix 1 in ABS Household Income and Income Distribution, Australia, 2011-12 (cat. no. 6523.0) for information on the use of percentile ratios in analysing distributions.

Ratio of income received by high income households relative to low income households

Used here to describe the p90/p10 ratio of households using equivalised disposable household income. See 'Percentiles' for further information.

Real

Real incomes payable and receivable are calculated by dividing the nominal (current) income flows by the implicit price deflator for gross national expenditure.

Real net national disposable income (RNNDI)

Calculated by:

- taking real gross domestic income;
- deducting real incomes payable to the rest of the world;
- adding real incomes receivable from the rest of the world; and
- deducting the volume measure of consumption of fixed capital.

Real incomes payable and receivable are calculated by dividing the nominal income flows by the implicit price deflator for gross national expenditure. In the derivation of the aggregate, all of the adjustments are made using the chain volume aggregation method used to derive all of the ABS chain volume estimates.

Real net national disposable income (RNNDI) per capita

The ratio of RNNDI to the estimated resident population (ERP) of Australia. Population estimates use data published in the quarterly publication ABS Australian Demographic Statistics (cat. no. 3101.0). See 'Real net national disposable income (RNNDI)'.

Resident

Used here to refer to institutional units (e.g. households, corporations, non-profit institutions, government units) that maintain a centre of economic interest in Australia's domestic economic territory. For a more detailed explanation, see Section 4.36 in Australian System of National Accounts: Concepts, Sources and Methods, Edition 3 (cat. no. 5216.0).

Resident taxation rate

Calculated as:

- Taxes on production and imports;
- plus Secondary income receivable - Total current taxes;
- minus Secondary income payable - Current taxes on income, wealth, etc from non-residents (external account);
- divided by (Gross disposable income; and
- minus Net secondary income from non-residents - Current taxes on income, wealth, etc).

There are no references for this theme

Click on the links below to be taken to a summary of the graphs from the corresponding tab within the fair outcomes theme:

Overall progress?

Living standards

Equity

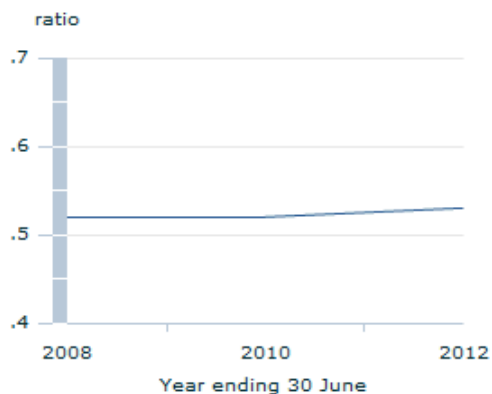
Disadvantage

Shared contribution and responsibility

OVERALL PROGRESS?

Ratio of income received by low income households relative to middle income households(a)(b)

Headline progress indicator



Footnote:

(a) Household income measured at the 10th percentile (P10) and the median (P50) are used in the calculation of this ratio (P10/P50 ratio).

(b) Household income has been equivalised and adjusted to include imputed rent.

Source:

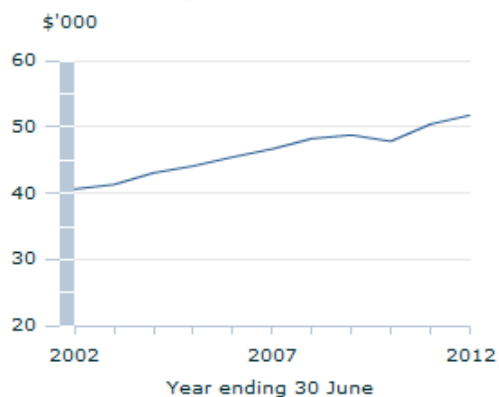
ABS Household Income and Income Distribution, Australia (cat. no. 6523.0)

[Back to top](#)

LIVING STANDARDS

Real net national disposable income per capita(a)

Progress indicator



Footnote:

(a) Reference year is 2010-11.

Source:

ABS Australian System of National Accounts, 2011-12 (cat. no. 5204.0)

[Back to top](#)

EQUITY

Ratio of income received by low income households relative to middle income households(a)(b)

Progress indicator



Footnote:

(a) Household income measured at the 10th percentile (P10) and the median (P50) are used in the calculation of this ratio (P10/P50 ratio).

(b) Household income has been equivalised and adjusted to include imputed rent.

Source:

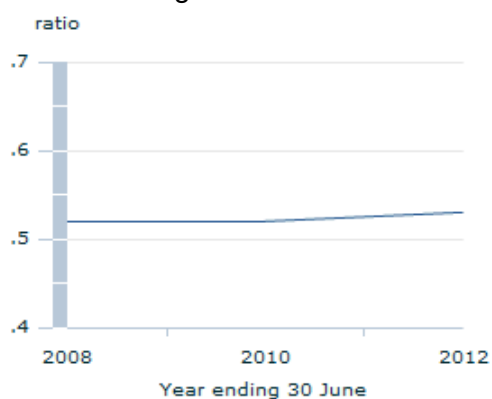
ABS Household Income and Income Distribution, Australia (cat. no. 6523.0)

[Back to top](#)

DISADVANTAGE

Ratio of income received by low income households relative to middle income households(a)(b)

Progress indicator



Footnote:

(a) Household income measured at the 10th percentile (P10) and the median (P50) are used in the calculation of this ratio (P10/P50 ratio).

(b) Household income has been equivalised and adjusted to include imputed rent.

Source:

ABS Household Income and Income Distribution, Australia (cat. no. 6523.0)

[Back to top](#)

SHARED CONTRIBUTION AND RESPONSIBILITY

Resident taxation rate(a)

Progress indicator



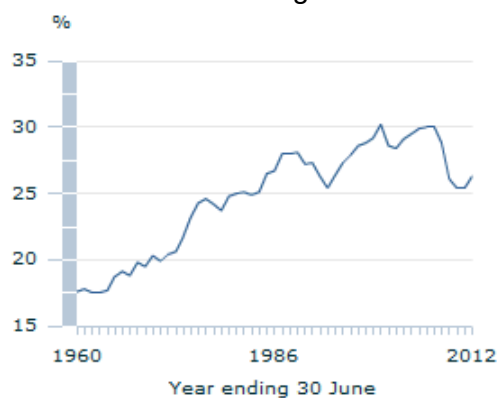
Footnote:

(a) Taxation revenue receivable from residents relative to gross disposable income excluding net taxation revenue receivable from non-residents.

Source:

ABS Australian System of National Accounts, 2011-12 (cat. no. 5204.0)

...over the longer term



Footnote:

(a) Taxation revenue receivable from residents relative to gross disposable income excluding net taxation revenue receivable from non-residents.

Source:

ABS Australian System of National Accounts, 2011-12 (cat. no. 5204.0)

[Back to top](#)



International economic engagement

Australians aspire to fruitful economic engagement with the rest of the world

Overall progress? **Overall progress?**

Development and maintenance of trade relationships **Trade relationships**

Migration and tourism **Migration**

Uphold international responsibilities and cooperation **International responsibilities**

Sharing of knowledge and ideas **Knowledge**



International trade rate(a)

Headline progress indicator | ▼

Footnote (a) Total imports and exports of goods and services divided by gross domestic product.

Source ABS Australian System of National Accounts, 2011-12 (cat. no. 5204.0)

Footnote(s): (a) Total imports and exports of goods and services divided by gross domestic product. ;

Source(s): ABS Australian System of National Accounts, 2011-12 (cat. no. 5204.0); ABS Australian System of National Accounts, 2011-12 (cat. no. 5204.0)



International economic engagement in Australia has progressed over the last decade

Indicator: International trade rate

Why is this theme important?

Australians told us that while there were different ideas on what international economic engagement would look like, overall many people saw it as a positive thing for Australia. Positive interactions may include trade relationships or Australia being a destination for visitors and migrants. They might also involve Australia being open to giving and receiving ideas and sharing knowledge and experience. It also includes Australia's response to its international economic obligations and responsibilities.

How have we decided there has been progress?

We have decided international economic engagement in Australia has progressed over the last decade because the international trade rate (our headline progress indicator for international economic engagement) has increased.

Between 2001-02 and 2011-12, international trade in goods and services relative to gross domestic product (GDP) increased from 41% to 43%. Although this measure decreased during 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2009-10, an upward trend has clearly emerged as total trade in goods and services increased for

most of this period.

This past decade has seen marked increases in both international trade and production within the Australian economy. In overall terms, GDP and total imports and exports of goods and services to and from Australia increased by 95% and 101% respectively. During most years, international trade increased at a greater rate than GDP with the notable exception of 2009-10 when total imports and exports of goods and services decreased by 8.8% while GDP increased by 3.0%.

Why this headline progress indicator?

International trade is an important part of the aspiration for international economic engagement.

The international trade rate is considered a good measure of progress for international economic engagement because it shows the relative impact of international economic engagement on the economy. In an internationally engaged economy, goods and services consumed are composed of a diverse range of products produced domestically or imported from other countries. The international trade rate is concerned with measuring the flow of internationally exchanged goods and services and quantifying the relative influence of international trade on the Australian economy.

While change in the international trade rate indicates greater or lesser engagement with other economies, change in the rate can also be caused by a number of factors including changes in imports, exports or economic growth. Wider economic circumstances should therefore be considered when interpreting specific movements in the rate.

Quality assessment (see key)



This indicator is a partial measure of the concept of international economic engagement as described above (based on Aspirations for our Nation).



The data source is of high quality.

Let's break it down!

Looking at the value of imports and exports shows the composition of international trade to and from Australia. Although international trade has increased over the last decade, the underlying drivers behind its growth have changed over this time period. Up until 2008-09, growth in this measure was driven by imports of goods and services which exceeded exports of goods and services by 9.1% on average. However, since 2008-09 this trend has been reversed and exports have exceeded imports by 2.3%.

Use the drop down menu on the graph to look at other breakdowns of the indicator (graphs are also available on the further info page).

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to international economic engagement than the international trade rate. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of international economic engagement have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

Development and maintenance of trade relationships in Australia has progressed over the last decade

Indicator: International trade rate

Why is this element important?

An important aspect of international economic engagement is the exchanges achieved through the development and maintenance of trade relationships. Australian engagement in new and ongoing trade relationships is considered a positive interaction with the rest of the world.



International trade rate(a)

Progress indicator

Footnote (a) Total imports and exports of goods and services divided by gross domestic product.

Source ABS Australian System of National Accounts, 2011-12 (cat. no. 5204.0)

Footnote(s): (a) Total imports and exports of goods and services divided by gross domestic product. ;
Source(s): ABS Australian System of National Accounts, 2011-12 (cat. no. 5204.0); ABS Australian System of National Accounts, 2011-12 (cat. no. 5204.0)

Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about international economic engagement.

How have we decided there has been progress?

We know the development and maintenance of trade relationships in Australia has progressed over the last decade because the international trade rate (our progress indicator for development and maintenance of trade relationships) has increased.

Between 2001-02 and 2011-12, international trade in goods and services relative to gross domestic product (GDP) increased from 41% to 43%. Although this measure decreased during 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2009-10, an upward trend has clearly emerged as total trade in goods and services increased for most of this period.

This past decade has seen marked increases in both international trade and production within the Australian economy. In overall terms, GDP and total imports and exports of goods and services to and from Australia increased by 95% and 101% respectively. During most years, international trade increased at a greater rate than GDP with the notable exception of 2009-10 when total imports and exports of goods and services decreased by 8.8% while GDP increased by 3.0%.

Why this progress indicator?

The international trade rate tells us about the development and maintenance of trade relationships as part of the aspiration for international economic engagement.

The international trade rate is considered a good measure of progress for the development and maintenance of trade relationships because it shows the relative impact of these interactions on the economy. In an economy with well-established and growing trade relationships, goods and services consumed are composed of a diverse range of products produced domestically or imported from other countries. The international trade rate is concerned with measuring the openness of trade that facilitates the flow of internationally exchanged goods and services and quantifying the relative influence of these trade relationships on the Australian economy.

While change in the international trade rate indicates greater or lesser development and maintenance of trade relationships with other economies, change in the rate can be caused by a number of factors including changes in imports, exports or economic growth. Wider economic circumstances should therefore be considered when interpreting specific movements in the rate.

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is a partial measure of development and maintenance of trade relationships.



The data source is of high quality.

Let's break it down!

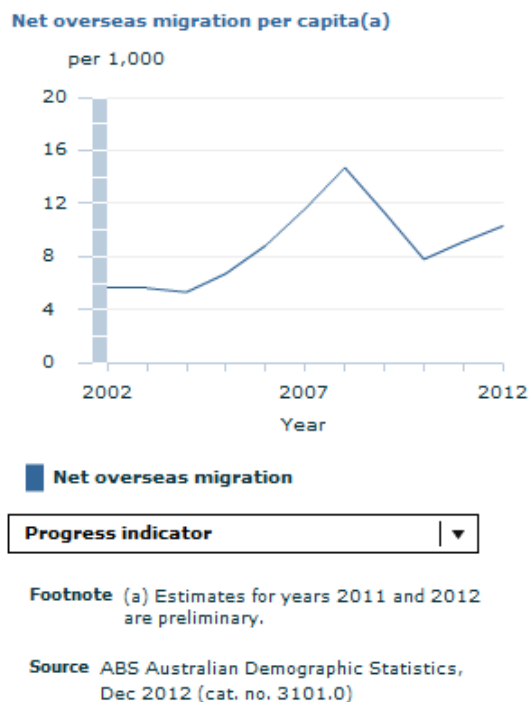
Looking at the value of imports and exports shows the composition of international trade to and from Australia. Although international trade has increased over the last decade, the underlying drivers behind its growth have changed over this time period. Up until 2008-09, growth in this measure was driven by imports of goods and services which exceeded exports of goods and services by 9.1% on average. However, since 2008-09 this trend has been reversed and exports have exceeded imports by 2.3%.

Use the drop down menu on the graph to look at other breakdowns of the indicator (graphs are also available on the further info page).

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to international economic engagement than the development and maintenance of trade relationships. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of international economic engagement have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.



Footnote(s): (a) Estimates for years 2011 and 2012 are preliminary.;(a) Estimates for years 2011 and 2012 are preliminary.
Source(s): ABS Australian Demographic Statistics, Dec 2012 (cat. no. 3101.0); ABS Australian Demographic Statistics, Dec 2012 (cat. no. 3101.0)

Migration and tourism in Australia has progressed over the last decade

Indicator: Net overseas migration per capita

Why is this element important?

An important aspect of international economic engagement is the exchange achieved through migration and tourism. The movement of people to and from the nation reflects Australia's international economic

engagement and relationship with the rest of the world. Migration also facilitates the exchange of cultures, values and attitudes between countries which has a positive impact on the economy but can be more difficult to quantify.

Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about international economic engagement.

How have we decided there has been progress?

We have decided migration and tourism in Australia has progressed over the last decade because net overseas migration per capita (our progress indicator for migration and tourism) has increased.

In 2012, Australian net overseas migration increased the Australian population by 10.3 migrants per 1,000 persons. This was close to twice the number added a decade ago in 2002 (net overseas migration of 5.6 migrants per 1,000 persons).

The past decade has seen marked periods of growth in net overseas migration to Australia per capita. Most notably, the period from 2004 to 2008 saw net overseas migration per capita grow from 5.3 to 14.7 per 1,000 persons. This growth was mainly driven by a large increase in international students. While this period was followed by two years of decline (to a low of 7.8 per 1,000 in 2010) with many international students returning home after studies, net overseas migration per capita has since grown year-over-year to its current rate (10.3 per 1,000 persons in 2012).

Why this progress indicator?

Net overseas migration tells us about migration as part of the aspiration for international economic engagement.

Net overseas migration per capita is considered a good measure of progress for migration and tourism because it measures the flow of people to and from Australia relative to the population. Measuring the movement on a per capita basis is useful as it accounts for change in the size of the Australian population. Because net overseas migration measures long-term movements to and from Australia, it is limited in that it cannot measure the tourism aspect of this element.

While net overseas migration is a robust measure of international migration, it does not measure short-term movements to and from Australia. Therefore, tourism, another important aspect of this element, has not been assessed when evaluating progress.

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is a partial measure of migration and tourism.



The data source is of high quality.

Let's break it down!

The contribution of arrivals and departures to net overseas migration can reveal the driving factors behind changes in the overall rate. Between 2004 and 2012, per capita departures from Australia remained reasonably stable while arrivals demonstrated more pronounced periods of growth and decline. This shows that arrivals were a large contributor to the overall trend in net overseas migration to Australia.

Use the drop down menu on the graph to look at other breakdowns of the indicator (graphs are also available on the further info page).

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to international economic engagement than migration and tourism. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of international economic engagement have

progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

A data gap currently exists for uphold international responsibilities and cooperation

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

1.

A range of possible indicators were considered for uphold international responsibilities and cooperation such as the number of bilateral trade agreements in existence. However, this indicator has limitations in that there is only a finite number of agreements that may be negotiated, the number of which does not indicate the importance of the relationship or the quality of the agreement. The effectiveness with which international responsibilities and cooperation are upheld may be best reflected by the headline measure, the international trade rate.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to international economic engagement than uphold international responsibilities and cooperation. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of international economic engagement have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.



Footnote (a) Where education, business or conferences/conventions were the main reason for journey to/from Australia.
(b) Estimates for years 2011 and 2012 are preliminary.

Source ABS Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia (cat. no. 3401.0)
ABS Australian Demographic Statistics, Dec 2012 (cat. no. 3101.0)

Footnote(s): (a) Where education, business or conferences/conventions were the main reason for journey to/from Australia. (b) Estimates for years 2011 and 2012 are preliminary. (a) Estimates for 2012 are preliminary.

Source(s): ABS Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia (cat. no. 3401.0); ABS Australian Demographic Statistics, Dec 2012 (cat. no. 3101.0); ABS Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia (cat. no. 3401.0); ABS Australian Demographic Statistics, Dec 2012 (cat. no. 3101.0).

Sharing of knowledge and ideas in Australia has progressed over the last decade

Indicator: International short-term movements for education, business and conferences per capita

Why is this element important?

The sharing of knowledge and ideas is an important aspect of progress as it can bring new perspectives and innovations to Australia's public and private institutions and community more broadly. Sharing knowledge and ideas can benefit Australia by directly improving processes and practices used to produce goods and services. It can also benefit the nation through the transfer of ideas and innovations to other countries, which in return strengthen Australia's international economic standing.

Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about international economic engagement.

How have we decided there has been progress?

We have decided sharing of knowledge and ideas in Australia has progressed over the last decade because international short-term movements for education, business and conferences per capita (our progress indicator for sharing of knowledge and ideas) has increased.

In 2002, there were 40 short-term visitor arrivals and 38 short-term resident departures for education, business and conferences from Australia per 1,000 population. A decade later in 2012, the rate was greater at 55 and 49 respectively. Both series have seen year-on-year growth for most of the decade, with the exception of notable declines to both rates in 2008 and 2009 which coincides with the uncertainty of the Global Financial Crisis.

Why this progress indicator?

Movements for education, business and conferences tells us about the sharing of knowledge and ideas as part of the aspiration for international economic engagement.

International short-term movements for education, business and conferences per capita is considered a good measure of progress for sharing of knowledge and ideas because it measures the movement of people to and from Australia for reasons that are likely to involve the exchange of knowledge and ideas between nations. Measuring the movement on a per capita basis is useful as it accounts for change in the size of the Australian population.

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is an indirect measure of sharing of knowledge and ideas.



The data source is of high quality.

Let's break it down!

The main reason for people to enter and leave Australia for learning and sharing skills is for business reasons, making up the majority of movements for both visitor arrivals (56%) and resident departures (72%). For visitor arrivals to Australia, education is also a large component of movements, accounting for around a third of all visitor arrivals in 2012.

Use the drop down menu on the graph to look at other breakdowns of the indicator (graphs are also available on the further info page).

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to international economic engagement than sharing of knowledge and ideas. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of international economic engagement have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

This page first published 14 November 2013, last updated 8 May 2014



Further info for international economic engagement

Need some more info on the international economic engagement theme? Hopefully this page can point you in the right direction

ContentContent

Useful linksUseful links

GlossaryGlossary

ReferencesReferences

Graph summaryGraph summary

This page contains the following further information for International economic engagement:

- Useful links
- Glossary
- References
- Graph summary

USEFUL LINKS

[ABS Topics @ a Glance - Demography](#)

[ABS Topics @ a Glance - Economy page](#)

[ABS Topics @ a Glance - Foreign trade](#)

[ABS Topics @ a Glance - National Accounts](#)

[ABS Australian Demographic Statistics \(cat. no. 3101.0\)](#)

[ABS Australian System of National Accounts \(cat. no. 5204.0\)](#)

[ABS Key Economic Indicators \(cat. no. 1345.0\)](#)

[ABS Migration, Australia \(cat. no. 3412.0\)](#)

[ABS Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia \(cat. no. 3401.0\)](#)

GLOSSARY

Estimated resident population (ERP)

The estimated resident population (ERP) is the official measure of the population of Australia. It is based on the concept of usual residence. For the purpose of ERP, a person is regarded as a usual resident if they have been (or are expected to be) residing in Australia for a period of 12 months or more. As such, it refers to all people, regardless of nationality, citizenship or legal status who usually live in Australia, with the exception of foreign diplomatic personnel and their families.

Exports of goods and services

The value of goods exported and amounts receivable from non-residents for the provision of services by residents.

Gross domestic product (GDP)

Is the total market value of goods and services produced in Australia within a given period after deducting the cost of goods and services used up in the process of production but before deducting allowances for the consumption of fixed capital. Thus gross domestic product, as here defined, is 'at market prices'. It is equivalent to gross national expenditure plus exports of goods and services less imports of goods and services. Farm product is that part of gross domestic product which arises from production in agriculture and services to agriculture. It is equivalent to the value added of ANZSIC 06 subdivision 01 'Agriculture' plus taxes less subsidies on products primary to this subdivision. Non-farm product arises from production in all other industries.

Imports of goods and services

The value of goods imported and amounts payable to non-residents for the provision of services to residents.

Main reason for journey

Overseas visitors/temporary entrants arriving in Australia and Australian residents departing temporarily from Australia are asked to state their main reason for journey. All statistics relating to main reason for journey use the following categories:

- convention/conference;
- business;
- visiting friends/relatives;
- holiday;
- employment;
- education; and
- other.

Migration

The movement of people across a specified boundary for the purpose of establishing a new or semi-permanent residence. Migration can be international (migration between countries) and internal (migration within a country).

Net overseas arrivals

NOM arrivals are all overseas arrivals that contribute to net overseas migration (NOM). It is the number of incoming international travellers who stay in Australia for 12 months or more, who are not currently counted within the population, and are then added to the population.

Under the current method for estimating final net overseas migration this term is based on a traveller's actual duration of stay or absence using the '12/16 month rule'.

Net overseas departures

NOM departures are all overseas departures that contribute to net overseas migration (NOM). It is the number of outgoing international travellers (Australian residents and long term visitors to Australia) who leave Australia for 12 months or more, who are currently counted within the population, and are then subtracted from the population.

Under the current method for estimating final net overseas migration this term is based on a traveller's actual duration of stay or absence using the '12/16 month rule'.

Net overseas migration (NOM)

Net overseas migration is the net gain or loss of population through immigration to Australia and emigration from Australia. It is:

- based on an international travellers' duration of stay being in or out of Australia for 12 months or more; and
- the difference between:
- the number of incoming international travellers who stay in Australia for 12 months or more, who are not currently counted within the population, and are then added to the population (NOM arrivals); and
- the number of outgoing international travellers (Australian residents and long-term visitors to Australia) who leave Australia for 12 months or more, who are currently counted within the population, and are then subtracted from the population (NOM departures).

Under the current method for estimating final net overseas migration this term is based on a traveller's actual duration of stay or absence using the '12/16 month rule'. Preliminary NOM estimates are modelled on patterns of traveller behaviours observed in final NOM estimates for the same period one year earlier.

Short-term resident departures

Australian residents who intend to stay abroad for less than 12 months.

Short-term visitor arrivals

Overseas visitors who intend to stay in Australia for less than 12 months.

There are no references for this theme

Click on the links below to be taken to a summary of the graphs from the corresponding tab within the international economic engagement theme:

Overall progress?

Development and maintenance of trade relationships

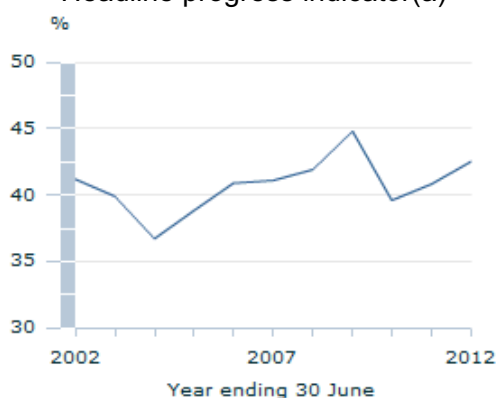
Migration and tourism

Sharing of knowledge and ideas

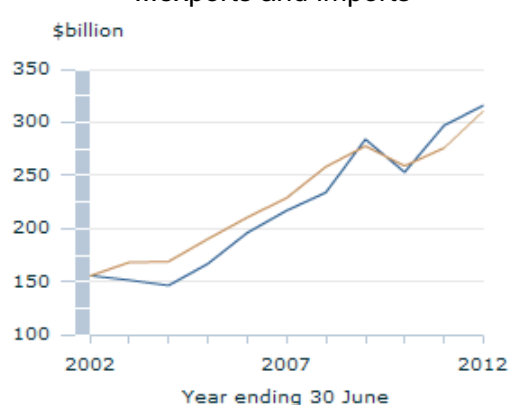
OVERALL PROGRESS?

International trade

Headline progress indicator(a)



...exports and imports



International trade rate(a)

Footnote:
(a) Total imports and exports of goods and services divided by gross domestic product.
Source:
ABS Australian System of National Accounts, 2011-12 (cat. no. 5204.0)

Exports of goods and services

Imports of goods and services

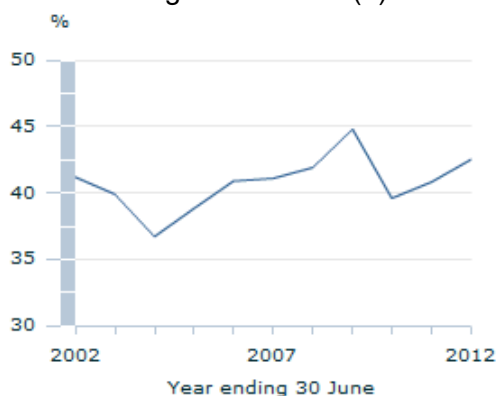
Source:
ABS Australian System of National Accounts, 2011-12 (cat. no. 5204.0)

[Back to top](#)

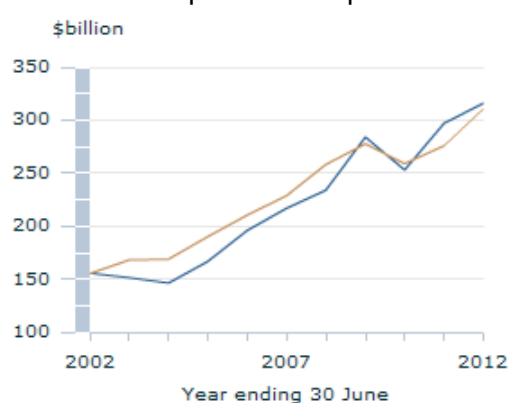
DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF TRADE RELATIONSHIPS

International trade

Progress indicator(a)



...exports and imports



International trade rate(a)

Footnote:
(a) Total imports and exports of goods and services divided by gross domestic product.
Source:
ABS Australian System of National Accounts, 2011-12 (cat. no. 5204.0)

Exports of goods and services

Imports of goods and services

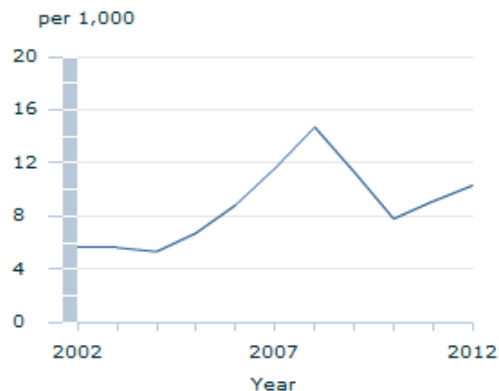
Source:
ABS Australian System of National Accounts, 2011-12 (cat. no. 5204.0)

[Back to top](#)

MIGRATION AND TOURISM

Net overseas migration per capita(a)

Progress indicator



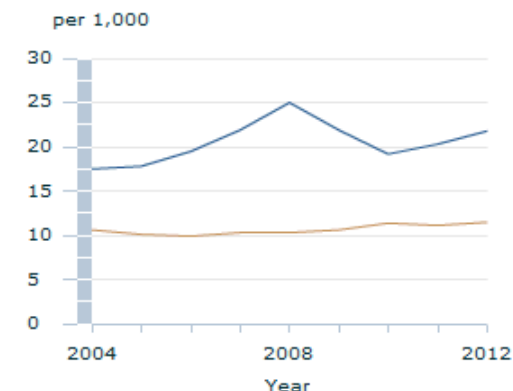
Footnote:

(a) Estimates for years 2011 and 2012 are preliminary.

Source:

ABS Australian Demographic Statistics, Dec 2012 (cat. no. 3101.0)

...by overseas arrivals and departures



Net overseas arrivals

Net overseas departures

Footnote:

(a) Estimates for years 2011 and 2012 are preliminary.

Source:

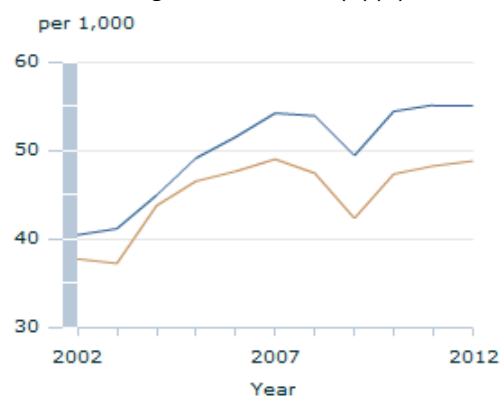
ABS Australian Demographic Statistics, Dec 2012 (cat. no. 3101.0)

[Back to top](#)

SHARING OF KNOWLEDGE AND IDEAS

International short-term movements for education, business and conferences per capita

Progress indicator(a)(b)



Visitor arrivals

Resident departures

Footnote:

(a) Where education, business or conferences/conventions were the main reason for journey to/from Australia.

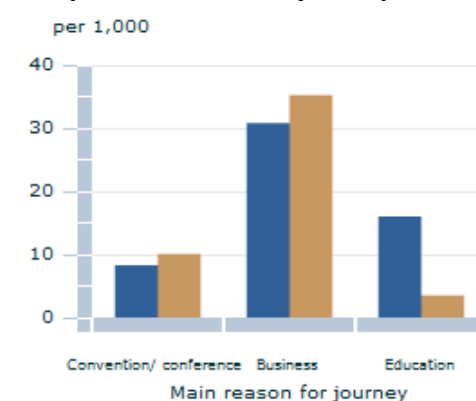
(b) Estimates for years 2011 and 2012 are preliminary.

Source:

ABS Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia (cat. no. 3401.0)

ABS Australian Demographic Statistics, Dec 2012 (cat. no. 3101.0)

...by main reason for journey - 2012(a)



Visitor arrivals

Resident departures

Footnote:

(a) Estimates for years 2012 are preliminary.

Source:

ABS Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia (cat. no. 3401.0)

ABS Australian Demographic Statistics, Dec 2012 (cat. no. 3101.0)

[Back to top](#)



Environment

Australians aspire to healthy natural and built environments, which they connect to, benefit from, care for and sustain for future generations

Measures of Australia's Progress (MAP) presents a view of Australian life divided into four main areas: society, economy, environment and governance. During our latest consultation, we asked Australians about what is important to them for national progress for each of these areas. For the environment, they identified the aspects they felt were most important and what they thought Australia should aspire to (or aim for) to achieve progress. We have sought to provide indicators that will capture the spirit of, and measure, these aspirations for environmental progress. The statement at the top of this page is the overall aspiration Australians had for the environment.

In the context of MAP, the environment, both natural and built, is fundamental to the quality of life and sense of wellbeing of Australians, as well as providing key inputs to the economy. Increasing population and economic pressures have caused many people to be increasingly concerned about the state of both the Australian and wider global environment

A healthy natural environment is fundamental to the quality of life and wellbeing of Australians. It is also integral to a strong economy. Despite this, there has been a tendency until recently to take clean water, clean air and natural attractions such as the Great Barrier Reef for granted. However, the environment faces increasing pressures from growing populations and thriving economies, threatening to endanger the benefits that the environment provides to society. As a result, many people have become increasingly concerned about the state of the environment and its long-term health, both in Australia and globally.

What did Australians say?

Australians are interested in other aspects of the environment, as well as its health. Many people expressed aspirations in the areas of working together to protect and sustain the environment, ensuring that we can better appreciate it both now and in the future.

The quality of our built environments and the significant impacts they have on people's lives, is also an issue of growing importance; particularly given that the vast majority of Australians now live in urban areas.

Main themes of environment

Our recent consultation agreed on six main themes Australians thought were important for environmental progress and where possible, MAP provides progress indicators for these themes and their elements. As there are many newly emerging areas of interest from the consultation process, we don't have measures for all of these. However, MAP is an evolving product and we will seek to fill data gaps as suitable measures become available.

To view the environment measures included in MAP, click on the themes below to see how Australia is progressing in that area:

- Healthy natural environment - Australians aspire to a healthy natural environment
- Appreciating the environment - Australians aspire to appreciate the natural environment and people's connections with it
- Protecting the environment - Australians aspire to look after and protect our natural environment
- Sustaining the environment - Australians aspire to manage the environment sustainably for future generations
- Healthy built environments - Australians aspire to healthy built environments
- Working together for a healthy environment - Australians aspire for government, business and communities to work together locally and globally for a healthy environment

This page first published 14 November 2013, last updated 8 May 2014



Healthy natural environment

Australians aspire to a healthy natural environment

Overall progress?**Overall progress?**

Biodiversity**Biodiversity**

Land and vegetation**Land**

Rivers, lakes and ground water**Inland waters**

Oceans and estuaries**Oceans**

Air and atmosphere**Air and atmosphere**

Forests**Forests**



A data gap currently exists for healthy natural environment

Why is this theme important?

Australians told us that they want their natural environment to become healthier rather than degraded over time. This includes improving the health of all the components of the environment. Until recently there has been a tendency to take clean water, clean air and natural attractions such as the Great Barrier Reef for granted. However, increasing population and economic pressures have caused many people to be increasingly concerned about the state of both the Australian and wider global environment.

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

A range of possible indicators are being considered for assessing our healthy natural environment, but the concept is too broad to summarise in any one measure. In order to capture the spirit of this idea in a measure, further development will need to be undertaken. We will continue to explore options for a suitable indicator in the future.

But that is not the whole story...

Trying to measure progress towards a healthy natural environment overall is quite challenging because there are many diverse elements that make up our natural environment. Look through the other tabs on this page to see where we have been able to track progress.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

A data gap currently exists for biodiversity.

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

A range of possible indicators are being considered for biodiversity, such as looking at the official numbers of extinct or endangered flora and fauna species. Unfortunately change in these numbers is often due to improved efforts to collect information, rather than actual biodiversity change. Therefore, in order to capture the spirit of biodiversity in a measure, further development will need to be undertaken. We will continue to explore options for a suitable indicator in the future.

But that is not the whole story...

Although it is hard to track overall changes in biodiversity, we can track efforts to protect Australia's natural environment and conservation of biodiversity. Check out the protecting the environment theme for more information.

There is more to a healthy natural environment than biodiversity. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of a healthy natural environment have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

A data gap currently exists for land and vegetation.

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

We propose to use the total area of vegetation cover (excluding crops and pastures) from GeoScience Australia's National Dynamic Land Cover Dataset as a progress indicator for the land and vegetation element in the future. However this dataset was not ready for use at the time of MAP 2013's release.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to a healthy natural environment than land and vegetation. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of a healthy natural environment have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

A data gap currently exists for the health of our rivers, lakes and ground water.

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

A range of possible indicators are being considered for health of our rivers, lakes and ground water, such as water quality or the state of key species populations. In order to capture the spirit of this idea in a measure, further development will need to be undertaken. We will continue to explore options for a suitable indicator in the future.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to a healthy natural environment than rivers, lakes and ground water. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of a healthy natural environment have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

A data gap currently exists for oceans and estuaries.

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

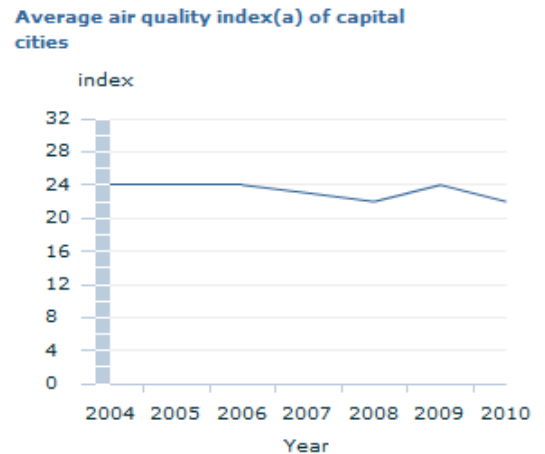
A range of possible indicators are being considered for health of our oceans and estuaries, such as the impact of particular physical and chemical processes. In order to capture the spirit of this idea in a measure, further development will need to be undertaken. We will continue to explore options for a

suitable indicator in the future.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to a healthy natural environment than oceans and estuaries. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of a healthy natural environment have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.



Weighted capital city average(b)

Footnote (a) An average air quality index (AQI) of 100 or greater means that on average air quality standards have been exceeded. An AQI of 33 or less is considered very good. (b) This indicator takes the average AQI for all measured pollutants within each city, based on median concentrations, and brings them together as an overall average that is weighted by the cities' relative populations.

Source National Sustainability Council, 'Sustainable Australia Report 2013, Conversations with the future', Canberra, DSEWPac, 2013. ABS Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia, 2012 (cat. no. 3235.0)

Footnote(s): (a) An average air quality index (AQI) of 100 or greater means that on average air quality standards have been exceeded. An AQI of 33 or less is considered very good. (b) This indicator takes the average AQI for all measured pollutants within each city, based on median concentrations, and brings them together as an overall average that is weighted by the cities' relative populations.

Source(s): National Sustainability Council, 'Sustainable Australia Report 2013, Conversations with the future', Canberra, DSEWPac, 2013.; ABS Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia, 2012 (cat. no. 3235.0)

The health of the air and atmosphere in Australia has not changed greatly since 2004.

Indicator: Average air quality index for capital cities

Why is this element important?

Poor air quality has a range of negative impacts: it can cause health problems, damage infrastructure, reduce crop yields and harm flora and fauna. Air pollution occurs both naturally and as a result of human activities.

Go to the overall progress tab and the further info page for more information about healthy natural environments.

How have we decided that things haven't changed greatly?

We have decided that there has been little change in the health of Australia's air since 2004 because the average air quality index for capital cities (our progress indicator for air and atmosphere) hasn't

moved much.

If the average air quality index had declined considerably over the period, this would be considered progress.

Between 2004 and 2010, the average air quality index for capital cities, showed no significant movement. The index was 24 in 2004 and 23 in 2010. These low values meant that on average air quality was very good and air pollution posed little or no risk. (Endnote 1)

Why use this progress indicator?

Good air quality is an important part of the aspiration for a healthy natural environment.

While, an ultimate measure of air quality would simultaneously be able to consider the quality of Australia's air across the entire continent and for all relevant pollutants, an average air quality index for capital cities is considered a good measure of progress for a healthy air and atmosphere because it summarises the average level of several pollutants across capital city 'airsheds' relative to their recommended levels.

However this indicator has limitations. For example, the indicator uses air quality data from only selected monitoring stations across Australia (though these stations are at the capital cities, where population health may be at a greater risk from poor air quality). A further limitation is that the indicator is an average. Using averages, across many regions, tends to mask trends in the data that might illuminate important stories in more specific areas, or for particular pollutants.

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is a partial measure of the health of Australia's air and atmosphere.



The data source is of acceptable quality.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to healthy natural environments than the quality of the air. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of healthy natural environment have progressed.

While this page has focussed on ambient air quality, information on the health of our atmosphere can be found in the 'Climate change' section of Measures of Australia's Progress 2013's 'Sustaining the environment' page.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

ENDNOTES

1. An air quality index (AQI) can be calculated by dividing pollutant concentrations by standards for maximum allowable concentrations set in the National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure (the 'NEPM'; available at <http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/C2004H03935>) and multiplying by 100. An index score of 66 or less is considered good, 33 or less is considered very good, while a score greater than 100 is considered poor.

The figures used in Measures of Australia's Progress are averaged AQIs of median concentrations for all measured pollutants (carbon dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, sulfur dioxide, and particle matter) across all relevant measuring stations. Measures of Australia's Progress provides an average air quality index for capital cities, weighted by population. This means that each city's AQI contributes to the overall average proportionally to its population. For example in 2010, Sydney's population represented almost one third of the overall capital city population, and therefore its AQI contributed to almost one third of the overall indicator.

A data gap currently exists for forests.

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

We propose to use the total area of forest cover from GeoScience Australia's National Dynamic Land Cover Dataset as a progress indicator for the forests element in the future. However this dataset was not ready for use at the time of MAP 2013's release.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to a healthy natural environment than forests. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of a healthy natural environment have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.



Further info for healthy natural environment

Need some more info on the healthy natural environment theme? Hopefully this page can point you in the right direction

Contents**Contents**

Useful links**Useful links**

Glossary**Glossary**

References**References**

Graph summary**Graph summary**

This page contains the following further information for healthy natural environment:

- Useful links
- Glossary
- References
- Graph summary

USEFUL LINKS

ABS Topics @ a Glance - Environment and Energy

Australian Government Department of the Environment

- Biodiversity
- The Cleaner Environment Plan
- Environment Protection
- Land
- Marine
- State of the Environment (SoE) reporting
- Water

Atlas of Living Australia: sharing biodiversity knowledge

GLOSSARY

Air quality index (AQI)

An air quality index can be calculated by dividing pollutant concentrations by standards for maximum allowable concentrations set in the National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure (the 'NEPM'; available at <http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/C2004H03935>) and multiplying by 100. An index score of 66 or less is considered good, while a score greater than 100 is considered poor. The figures used in Measures of Australia's Progress are averaged AQIs of median concentrations for all measured pollutants (carbon dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, sulfur dioxide, and particle matter).

Measures of Australia's Progress provides an average air quality index for capital cities, weighted by population. This means that each city's AQI contributes to the overall average proportionally relating to its population. For example in 2010, Sydney's population represented 31% of the overall capital city population, and therefore its AQI contributed to almost a third of the overall indicator.

Biodiversity

The variety of all life forms on earth – the different plants, animals and micro-organisms, the genes they contain and the ecosystems which they form part of.

REFERENCES

Australian Government Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, 2010, 'State of the Air in Australia: 1999-2008', Canberra, DSEWPaC <<http://www.environment.gov.au/>>

National Sustainability Council, 2013, 'Sustainable Australia Report 2013, Conversations with the future',

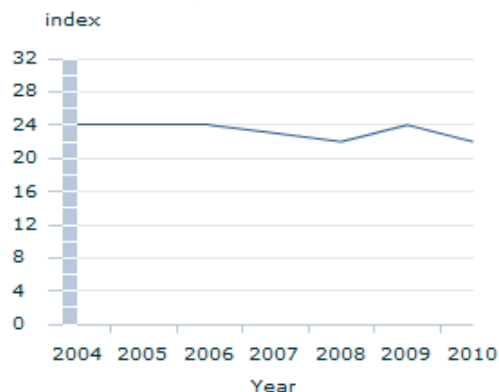
State of the Environment 2011 Committee, 2011, 'Australia: State of the environment, 2011', Independent report to the Australian Government Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, Canberra, DSEWPaC <<http://www.environment.gov.au/>>

Below is the only graph from the healthy natural environment theme, taken from the air and atmosphere tab:

AIR AND ATMOSPHERE

Average air quality index(a) of capital cities

Progress Indicator



■ Weighted capital city average(b)

Footnote:

(a) An average air quality index (AQI) of 100 or greater means that on average air quality standards have been exceeded. An AQI of 33 or less is considered very good.

(b) This indicator takes the average AQI for all measured pollutants within each city, based on median concentrations, and brings them together as an overall average that is weighted by the cities' relative populations.

Source:

National Sustainability Council, 'Sustainable Australia Report 2013, Conversations with the future', Canberra, DSEWPaC, 2013.

ABS Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia, 2012 (cat. no. 3235.0)



Appreciating the environment

Australians aspire to appreciate the natural environment and people's connection with it

Overall progress? **Overall progress?**

Understanding the environment's intrinsic value **Intrinsic value**

Understanding the environment's economic value **Economic value**

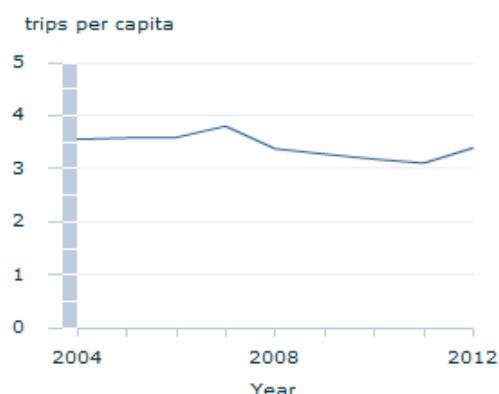
Access to and availability of nature areas **Access**

Cultural connections **Cultural**

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' connection to country **Aboriginal**

Quality information **Information**

Domestic trips(a) involving nature activities(b)(c)



Trips involving nature activities

Headline progress indicator

Footnote (a) Includes both overnight and day trips. (b) See the glossary on the further info page for a definition of 'Nature activities'. (c) People aged 15 years or over.

Source Tourism Research Australia 2013 (unpublished data); ABS Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia, 2012 (cat. no. 3235.0)

Footnote(s): (a) Includes both overnight and day trips. (b) See the glossary on the further info page for a definition of 'Nature activities'. (c) People aged 15 years or over. ;(a) Includes both overnight and day trips. (b) See the glossary on the further info page for a definition of 'Nature activities'. (c) People aged 15 years or over.

Source(s): Tourism Research Australia 2013 (unpublished data); ABS Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia, 2012 (cat. no. 3235.0); Tourism Research Australia 2013 (unpublished data); ABS Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia, 2012 (cat. no. 3235.0)



Appreciation of the environment in Australia has not changed greatly since 2004

Indicator: Number of domestic trips involving nature activities per capita

Why is this theme important?

Australians told us that they want the natural environment valued in many ways. People depend on the environment; it provides us with air, water, food, shelter and other things that we need to live. The environment was seen to contribute to the economy by providing resources and supporting industries. People saw it as particularly important that the value of the environment is taken into account when decisions are made that might affect it and that access to information is crucial in supporting this. Part of

appreciating the environment is having access to the opportunities it provides for enjoyment, reflection and inspiration. The environment was seen to have a different meaning for different people. For example, it is an iconic aspect of our national identity, as expressed in images of Australian beaches and landscapes. At an individual and community level, people recognised that connections to land and places hold meaning for many, such as the spiritual connection felt by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to country. For many people the environment was seen to have value in its own right, not only because it enriches human life.

How have we decided things haven't changed greatly?

We have decided that there has been little change in the appreciation of the environment in Australia since 2004 because the number of domestic trips involving nature activities per capita (our headline progress indicator for appreciating the environment) hasn't moved much.

If there was a considerable increase in the number of trips that Australians were taking that were involving nature activities such as visiting national parks, bush walking or going to the beach, our appreciation of the environment would be considered to have improved.

In 2012, there were 3.4 domestic trips involving nature activities for every person aged 15 years or over. This was not significantly different from the 3.6 trips per person in 2004.

Why this headline progress indicator?

Having access to nature activities is an important part of the aspiration for appreciating the environment.

The number of domestic trips involving nature activities, per capita, is considered a good measure of progress for appreciating the environment because it shows how often Australians are taking up opportunities to appreciate the environment directly through nature activities. However this indicator does have some limitations. For example, it is only looking at trips (both overnight and day trips), so nature activities enjoyed closer to home are excluded. As the aspiration for appreciating the environment is very broad, this indicator is also not able to capture certain elements such as our understanding of the environment's economic or intrinsic value.

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is a partial measure of the concept of appreciating the environment as described above (based on Aspirations for our Nation).



The data source is of high quality.

Let's break it down!

One popular way in which Australians commonly appreciated our natural environment is through going to the beach. Of all nature activities that Australians participated in while on domestic trips, going to the beach was the most popular. In 2012, as in 2004, each Australian aged 15 years or over had on average around 2 day or overnight trips that involved going to the beach.

Use the drop down menu on the graph to look at other breakdowns of the indicator (graphs are also available on the further info page).

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to appreciating the environment than trips involving nature activities. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of appreciating the environment have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

A data gap currently exists for understanding the environment's intrinsic value

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

A range of possible indicators are being considered for understanding the environment's intrinsic value, such as looking at people's concern over environmental problems. In order to capture the spirit of this idea in a measure, further development will need to be undertaken. We will continue to explore options for a suitable indicator in the future.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to appreciating the environment than understanding the environment's intrinsic value. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of appreciating the environment have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

A data gap currently exists for understanding the environment's economic value

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

A range of possible indicators are being considered for understanding the environment's economic value, such as looking at the implementation of our System of Environmental Economic Accounts (SEEA). In order to capture the spirit of this idea in a measure, further development will need to be undertaken. We will continue to explore options for a suitable indicator in the future.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to appreciating the environment than understanding the environment's economic value. Click through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of appreciating the environment have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

Access to and availability of nature areas in Australia has not changed greatly since 2004

Indicator: Number of domestic trips involving nature activities per capita

Why is this element important?

Part of appreciating the environment is having access to the opportunities it provides for enjoyment, reflection and inspiration. While the environment has a different meaning for different people, without the access to and availability of nature areas, people would be unable to fully appreciate the environment in their own way.

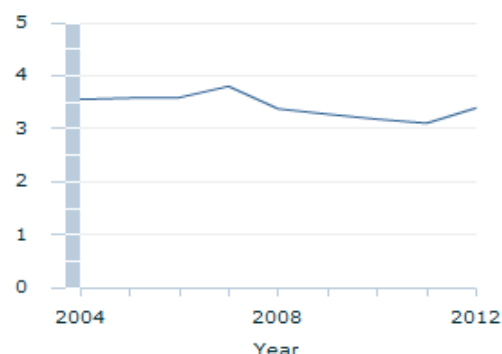
Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about appreciating the environment.

How have we decided things haven't changed greatly?

We have decided that there has been little change in access to and availability of nature areas in Australia since 2004 because the number of domestic trips involving nature activities per capita (our progress indicator for access and availability of nature areas) hasn't moved much.

Domestic trips(a) involving nature activities(b)(c)

trips per capita



Trips involving nature activities

Progress indicator

Footnote (a) Includes both overnight and day trips. (b) See the glossary on the further info page for a definition of 'Nature activities'. (c) People aged 15 years or over.

Source Tourism Research Australia 2013 (unpublished data); ABS Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia, 2012 (cat. no. 3235.0)

Footnote(s): (a) Includes both overnight and day trips. (b) See the glossary on the further info page for a definition of 'Nature activities'. (c) People aged 15 years or over. ;(a) Includes both overnight and day trips. (b) See the glossary on the further info page for a definition of 'Nature activities'. (c) People aged 15 years or over.

Source(s): Tourism Research Australia 2013 (unpublished data); ABS Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia, 2012 (cat. no. 3235.0); Tourism Research Australia 2013 (unpublished data); ABS Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia, 2012 (cat. no. 3235.0)

If there was a considerable increase in the number of trips that Australians were taking that were involving nature activities such as visiting national parks, bush walking or going to the beach, access to natural areas would be considered to have improved.

In 2012, there were 3.4 domestic trips involving nature activities for every person aged 15 years or over. This was not significantly different from the 3.6 trips per person in 2004.

Why this progress indicator?

Having access to nature areas and taking up opportunities that this provides is an important part of the aspiration for appreciating the environment.

The number of domestic trips involving nature activities, per capita, is considered a good measure of progress for access and availability of nature areas because people's uptake of nature activities must be related to the access and availability of nature areas in which these activities can take place. However this indicator does have some limitations. For example, it is only looking at trips (both overnight and day trips), so nature activities enjoyed closer to home are excluded. This indicator also doesn't account for some confounding factors which may also influence a person's decision not to partake in nature activities, despite access and availability of nature areas.

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is a partial measure of access to and availability of nature areas.



The data source is of high quality.

Let's break it down!

Beaches are very popular nature areas within Australia. Of all nature activities that Australians participated in while on domestic trips, going to the beach was the most popular. In 2012, as in 2004, each Australian aged 15 years or over had on average around 2 day or overnight trips that involved going to the beach.

Use the drop down menu on the graph to look at other breakdowns of the indicator (graphs are also available on the further info page).

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to appreciating the environment than access to and availability of nature areas. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of appreciating the environment have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

A data gap currently exists for cultural connections

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

A range of possible indicators are being considered for cultural connections, such as the number or size of natural heritage sites or expenditure on natural heritage. In order to capture the spirit of this idea in a measure, further development will need to be undertaken. We will continue to explore options for a suitable indicator in the future.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to appreciating the environment than cultural connections. Click through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of appreciating the environment have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' connection to country in Australia has not changed greatly since 1994

Indicator: Proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who recognise an area as homelands or traditional country

Why is this element important?

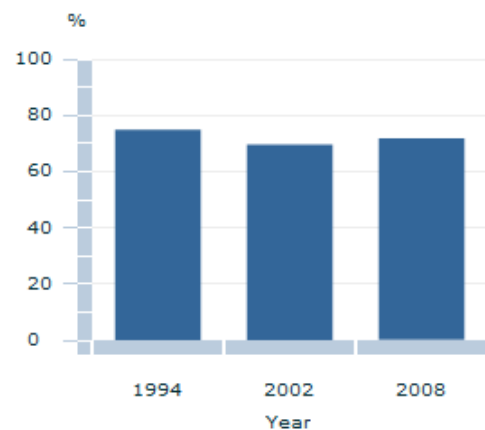
For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people a sense of connection to country, through recognition, visits, or residing on homelands or traditional country can provide many benefits. Homelands are the ancestral lands where many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people 'live or visit; they are places of strong cultural significance where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples can to fulfil their cultural obligations to their inherited country and its underlying traditional law. Homelands can provide social, spiritual, cultural, health and economic benefits to residents. They enable residents to live on, and maintain their connections with their ancestral lands'. (Northern Territory Government Department of Regional Development and Women's Policy, 2013)

Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about appreciating the environment.

How have we decided things haven't changed greatly?

We have decided that there has been little change in connection to country since 1994 because the

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people who recognise an area as homelands or traditional country(a)



Persons

Progress indicator | ▼

Footnote (a) People aged 15 years and over.

Source ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey, 1994 (cat no 4190.0); ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2002 and 2008 (cat. no. 4714.0)

Footnote(s): (a) People aged 15 years and over.;(a) People aged 15 years and over.;(a) People aged 15 years or over.;(a) People aged 15 years or over.

Source(s): ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey, 1994 (cat no 4190.0); ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2002 and 2008 (cat. no. 4714.0); ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey, 1994 (cat no 4190.0); ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2002 and 2008 (cat. no. 4714.0); ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey, 1994 (cat no 4190.0); ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2002 and 2008 (cat. no. 4714.0); ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey, 1994 (cat no 4190.0); ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2002 and 2008 (cat. no. 4714.0)

proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who recognise an area as homelands or traditional country (our progress indicator for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' connection to country) hasn't moved much.

If over time there had been a significant increase in the proportion who recognise an area as homelands or traditional country, this would be considered as progress for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' connection to country.

In 2008, 72% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people recognised an area as their homelands or traditional country, a similar rate to that in the mid-nineties (75%). Recognition of an area as homeland or traditional country for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is not something that is related specifically to men or women, it is culturally significant, with men and women equally likely to recognise an area as their homeland or traditional country.

Why this progress indicator?

Connection to country for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, more specifically, their respect for the land is an important part of the aspiration for appreciating the environment.

The proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who recognise an area as homelands or traditional country is considered a good measure of progress for this element because it is directly measuring the concept. However, while it does provide an indication of the proportion of people who have a connection to country, it doesn't measure the depth of these connections.

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is a direct measure of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' connection to country.



The data source is of high quality.

Let's break it down!

Young adults were least likely to recognise their homeland in 2008 but this was also true in 1994. One of the significant changes between 1994 and 2008 was that in 2008, 61% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15-24 recognised an area as their homeland, a significantly lower proportion than 1994 of 68%. During this time, none of the age groups above 25 years of age recorded significant decreases in the proportion of people who recognised an area as their homeland or traditional country.

In 2008, recognition of homelands was more common among Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people who were living in Remote Areas of Australia (86%) than those in either Regional Areas or Major Cities (67% for either). That connection to country was stronger among those living in Remote Areas of Australia was also true in 2002 and 1994.

Recognition of homeland is not restricted to those people who live on their homeland. The majority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who recognised an area as homelands or traditional country did not currently live on that land in 1994 (61%). This measure remained the case in 2008 where of the majority of people who recognised an area as their homeland or traditional country, just under two thirds did not live in that area (65%).

Use the drop down menu on the graph to look at other breakdowns of the indicator (graphs are also available on the further info page).

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to appreciating the environment than Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' connection to country. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of appreciating the environment have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

A data gap currently exists for quality information on our environment

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

The diversity and quality of the information about our environment that is available to Australians is a concept that is hard to measure through a single statistical measure. Despite this, it is clear that there have been considerable developments in this space within the last couple of decades. The 'State of the Environment' reports, last updated by the then Australian Government Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities in 2011, bring together much of the most important environmental information for Australia. In addition, at the ABS, we are developing the Australian System Environmental-Economic Accounts, which will be a significant milestone in the on-going development of information to support the needs of government, industry and the general public in the area of environmental policy (ABS, 2013).

In order to capture the spirit of this idea in a measure, further development will need to be undertaken. We will continue to explore options for a suitable indicator in the future.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to appreciating the environment than access to quality information. Click through the other

tabs on this page to see if the other elements of appreciating the environment have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

This page first published 14 November 2013, last updated 8 May 2014



Further info for appreciating the environment

Need some more info on the appreciating the environment theme? Hopefully this page can point you in the right direction

ContentsContents

Useful linksUseful links

GlossaryGlossary

ReferencesReferences

Graph summaryGraph summary

This page contains the following further information for 'Appreciating the environment':

- Useful links
- Glossary
- References
- Graph summary

USEFUL LINKS

ABS Topics @ a Glance - Environment and Energy

Australian Government Department of the Environment

- Heritage
- National Parks

Tourism Research Australia

GLOSSARY

Day trips

A round trip distance of at least 50 kilometres, where the visitor was away from home for at least four hours and did not spend a night away from home as part of their travel. Same day travel as part of overnight travel was excluded, as was routine travel such as commuting between work/school and home.

Domestic trips involving nature activities

An overnight trip or a day trip taken by Australian visitor who participated in at least one nature activity.

Homelands/traditional country

An area of land with which Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people have ancestral and/or cultural links.

Major cities

See 'Remoteness Structure'.

Nature activities

Includes includes visiting any of these places:

- beaches (including swimming);
- national parks or state parks;
- botanical or other public gardens;
- wildlife parks, zoos or aquariums; or
- a reef.

or participating in any of these activities:

- whale or dolphin watching (in the ocean);

- bushwalking or rainforest walks;
- scuba diving;
- snorkelling;
- fishing;
- snow skiing;
- surfing; or
- water activities or sports.

Overnight trips

Trips involving a stay away from home for at least one night, at a place at least 40 kilometres from home. Only those trips where the respondent was away from home for less than 12 months are in scope.

Regional areas

See 'Remoteness Structure'.

Remote areas

See 'Remoteness Structure'.

Remoteness Structure

The concept of remoteness is an important dimension of policy development in Australia. The provision of many government services are influenced by the typically long distances that people are required to travel outside the major metropolitan areas. The purpose of the Remoteness Structure is to provide a classification for the release of statistics that inform policy development by classifying Australia into large regions that share common characteristics of remoteness. For more information see the 'Remoteness Structure' section of the ABS web site.

REFERENCES

ABS, 2013, 'Information Paper: Towards the Australian Environmental-Economic Accounts, 2013' (cat. no. 4655.0.55.002)

Northern Territory Government Department of Regional Development and Women's Policy, 2013, 'Regional Services > Homelands Policy', web page accessed 12 September, 2013 <<http://www.homelands.nt.gov.au/>>

Click on the links below to be taken to a summary of the graphs from the corresponding tab within the Appreciating the environment theme:

Overall progress?

Access to and availability of nature areas

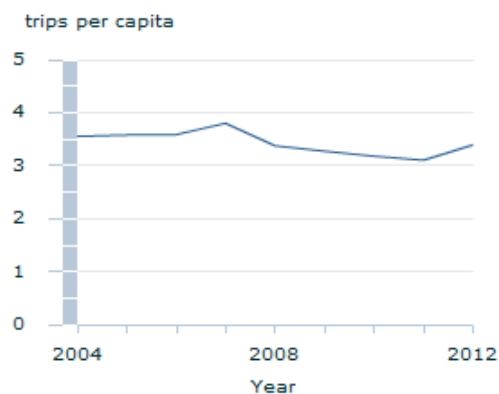
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' connection to country

OVERALL PROGRESS?

Domestic trips(a) involving nature activities(b)(c)

Headline progress indicator

...involving going to the beach



Footnote:

(a) Includes both overnight and day trips.

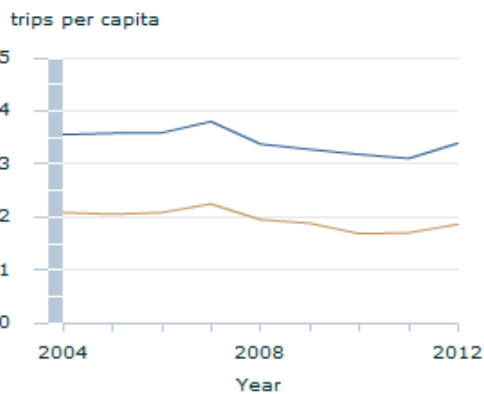
(b) See the glossary on the further info page for a definition of 'Nature activities'.

(c) Persons aged 15 years and over.

Source:

Tourism Research Australia 2013 (unpublished data)

ABS Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia, 2012 (cat. no. 3235.0)



■ ...involving nature activities

■ ...involving going to the beach

Footnote:

(a) Includes both overnight and day trips.

(b) See the glossary on the further info page for a definition of 'Nature activities'.

(c) Persons aged 15 years and over.

Source:

Tourism Research Australia 2013 (unpublished data)

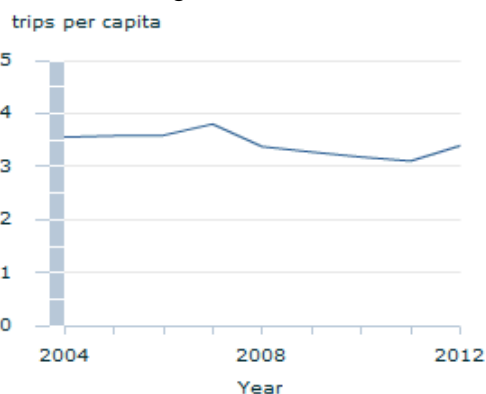
ABS Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia, 2012 (cat. no. 3235.0)

[Back to top](#)

ACCESS TO AND AVAILABILITY OF NATURE AREAS

Domestic trips(a) involving nature activities(b)(c)

Progress indicator



Footnote:

(a) Includes both overnight and day trips.

(b) See the glossary on the further info page for a definition of 'Nature activities'.

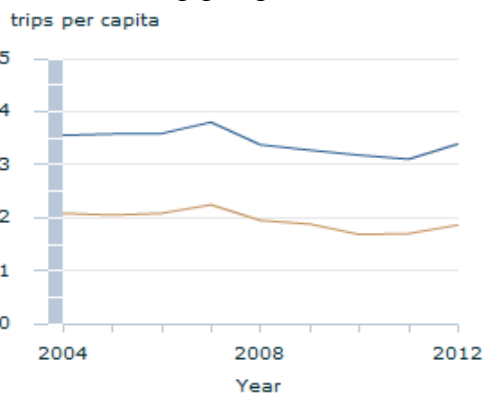
(c) Persons aged 15 years and over.

Source:

Tourism Research Australia 2013 (unpublished data)

ABS Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia, 2012 (cat. no. 3235.0)

...involving going to the beach



■ ...involving nature activities

■ ...involving going to the beach

Footnote:

(a) Includes both overnight and day trips.

(b) See the glossary on the further info page for a definition of 'Nature activities'.

(c) Persons aged 15 years and over.

Source:

Tourism Research Australia 2013 (unpublished data)

ABS Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia, 2012 (cat. no. 3235.0)

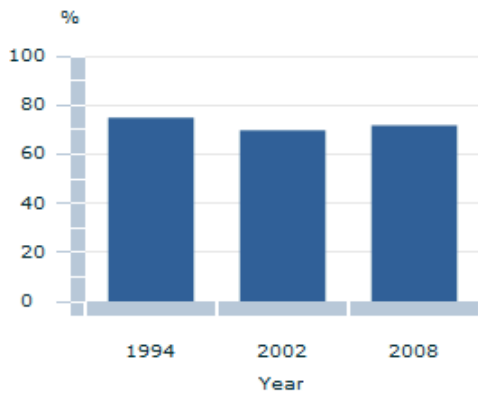
[Back to top](#)

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLES' CONNECTION TO COUNTRY

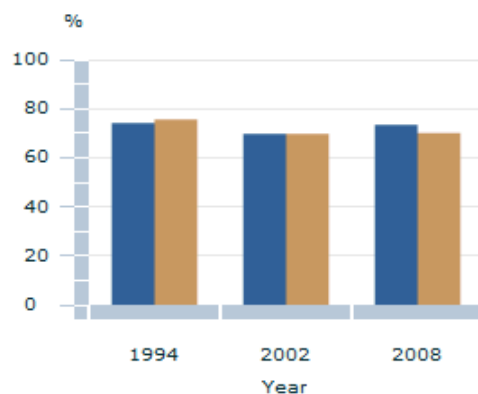
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who recognise an area as homelands or traditional country(a)

Progress indicator

...by sex

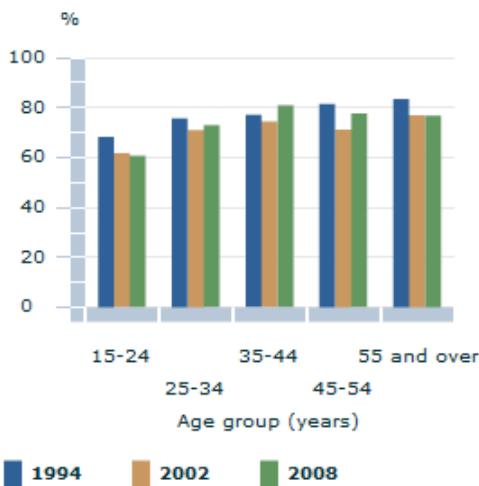


Footnote:
 (a) Persons aged 15 years and over.
 Source:
 ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey, 1994 (cat no 4190.0)
 ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2002 and 2008 (cat. no. 4714.0)



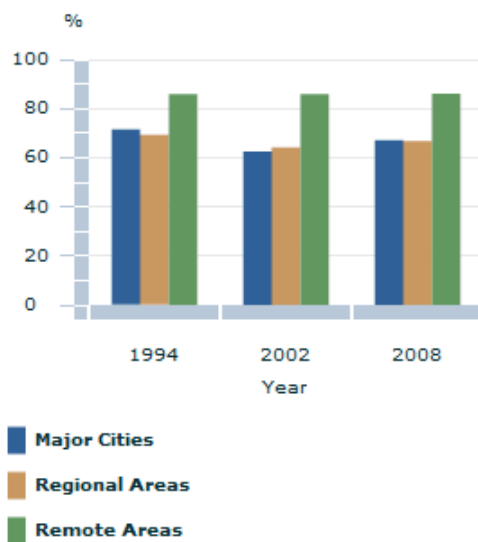
Footnote:
 (a) Persons aged 15 years and over.
 Source:
 ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey, 1994 (cat no 4190.0)
 ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2002 and 2008 (cat. no. 4714.0)

...by age



Footnote:
 (a) Persons aged 15 years and over.
 Source:
 ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey, 1994 (cat no 4190.0)
 ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2002 and 2008 (cat. no. 4714.0)

...by remoteness



Footnote:
 (a) Persons aged 15 years and over.
 Source:
 ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey, 1994 (cat no 4190.0)
 ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2002 and 2008 (cat. no. 4714.0)

[Back to top](#)



Protecting the environment

Australians aspire to look after and protect our natural environment

Overall progress?**Overall progress?**

Protect**Protect**

Prevent and minimise further damage**Prevent damage**

Restore**Restore**

Effective programs**Programs**



A data gap currently exists for protecting and looking after the natural environment

Why is this theme important?

The MAP consultation process showed that many people were concerned with how people look after the natural environment. Australians aspired to protect, care for and avoid damage to the environment, for example through protecting native flora, fauna, and wilderness areas. This involved careful management and restorative measures to improve the state of the environment and support healthy environmental function. Throughout the consultation, there was strong support for the idea that caring for the natural environment can occur through individual or group initiatives and through business and government programs.

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

A range of possible indicators are being considered for protecting and looking after the natural environment, such as people's involvement in environmental conservation or other activities. In order to capture the spirit of this idea in a measure, further development will need to be undertaken. We will continue to explore options for a suitable indicator in the future.

But that is not the whole story...

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

Direct protection of the natural environment in Australia has progressed over the last decade

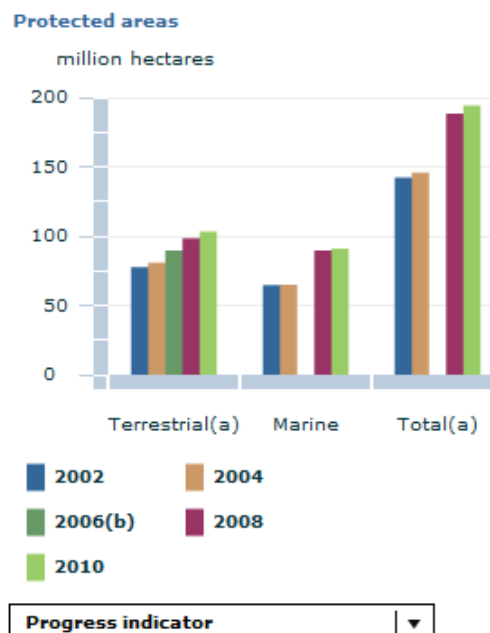
Indicator: Total terrestrial and marine area protected

Why is this element important?

The overall theme of protecting and looking after the natural environment captures a very broad and complex set of actions, including such things as careful management and restorative measures aimed to protect, care for and avoid further damage to the environment. However, this element of direct protection of the natural environment is more focussed on the establishment and management of protected areas.

Directly protecting our environment is important in ensuring that our lands, waters, unique native species and ecosystems survive into the future.

Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about protecting and looking after the natural environment.



Footnote (a) External territories are excluded.
(b) 2006 data is not available for Marine and/or Total.

Source Australian Government Department of the Environment, Collaborative Australian Protected Area Databases (1997, 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010)

Footnote(s): (a) External territories are excluded. (b) 2006 data is not available for Marine and/or Total.;(a) International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Management Categories V and VI offer a higher level of human use than the lower categories do. (b) 2006 data is not available for Marine. (c) The 2010 data includes a small amount of external territories which are otherwise excluded.

Source(s): Australian Government Department of the Environment, Collaborative Australian Protected Area Databases (1997, 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010); Australian Government Department of the Environment, Collaborative Australian Protected Area Databases (1997, 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010)

How have we decided there has been progress?

We have decided that there has been progress in the direct protection of the natural environment in Australia over the last decade because the total terrestrial and marine area that is protected (our progress indicator for direct protection of the natural environment) has increased.

In 2010, 194 million hectares of both Australian terrestrial and marine area had a protected status. This represented a 37% increase in protected areas since 2002 when 142 million hectares were protected. Of the protected areas in 2010, 103 million hectares were terrestrial, representing 13% of Australia's mainland (including Tasmania), while 91 million hectares were marine.

Why this progress indicator?

Protecting the natural environment through the creation of protected areas is an important part of the aspiration protect and look after the natural environment more broadly.

The total area of Australia's lands and waters that are protected is considered a good measure of progress for direct protection of the natural environment because it can show how efforts to provide protection have been changing over time. While this indicator is able to show the growth in protected areas, what it is unable to show is how well these protected areas are managed in order to achieve their conservation/protection objectives.

Quality assessment (see key)



This indicator is a partial measure of direct protection of the natural environment.



The data source is of high quality.

Let's break it down!

Protected areas can be divided into several different International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Management categories. Categories V and VI offer a higher level of human use than the lower categories do, though such use is still intended to be balanced and sustainable. Category V is a flexible category that 'may be able to accommodate contemporary developments such as ecotourism', while Category VI is based on 'a mutually beneficial relationship between nature conservation and the sustainable management of natural resources'. (UNEP, 2013)

In 2010, 40% of terrestrial protected areas were protected as IUCN Category V-VI. This was a higher proportion than in 2002 (30% in 2002).

In 2010, 45% of marine protected areas were protected as IUCN Category V-VI. This was lower than in 2002 (55%), however the proportion had moved around considerably over the period (e.g. 38% in 2004).

Use the drop down menu on the graph to look at other breakdowns of the indicator (graphs are also available on the further info page).

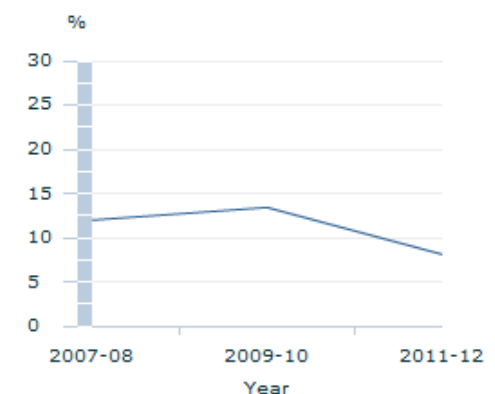
But that is not the whole story...

There is more to protecting and looking after the natural environment than direct protection. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of protecting and looking after the natural environment have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

The

Native vegetation & wetlands on agricultural holdings protected for conservation purposes



Native vegetation & wetlands

Footnote ^ 2007-08 estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution.

Source ABS Land Management and Farming in Australia, 2011-12 (cat. no. 4627.0)

Footnote(s): ^ 2007-08 estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution.

Source(s): ABS Land Management and Farming in Australia, 2011-12 (cat. no. 4627.0)

prevention and minimisation of further damage to the natural environment in Australia has not changed greatly in recent years

Indicator: Proportion of native vegetation and wetlands on agricultural holdings being protected for conservation purposes

Why is this element important?

As a component of the broader aspiration to protect and look after our natural environment it is important to recognise where damage is occurring and aim to prevent or reduce it into the future.

Go to overall progress tab and further info page for more information about protecting and looking after the natural environment.

How have we decided things haven't changed greatly?

We have decided that there has been little change in the prevention and minimisation of further damage to the natural environment in recent years because the proportion of native vegetation and wetlands on agricultural holdings that were being protected for conservation purposes (our progress indicator for prevention and minimisation of further damage to the environment) hasn't moved much.

In 2011-12, 8% of native vegetation and wetlands on agricultural holdings were protected for conservation reasons (representing 20 million hectares). While 12% was protected for conservation reasons in 2007-08, the difference between these two years is not significant.

Why this progress indicator?

The protection of native vegetation and wetlands on agricultural land tells us about efforts to prevent and/or minimise damage to the natural environment as a part of the aspiration to protect and look after the natural environment.

The proportion of native vegetation and wetlands on agricultural holdings being protected for conservation purposes is considered a good measure of progress for prevention and minimisation of further damage to the environment because it demonstrates specific efforts within agricultural lands. Historically, agricultural activity has been responsible for significant negative impacts upon Australia's natural environment, such as the clearing of native vegetation, the alteration of water flows and the deterioration of soil and water quality in many areas (ABS, 2003). Agriculture maintains a direct influence on much of our land, as agricultural holdings represented just over half of Australia's total land area in 2011-12 (53%) (ABS, 2013).

The proportion of native vegetation and wetlands on agricultural holdings being protected for conservation purposes does not show the effectiveness of protection efforts, informal protection efforts, or protection of other important natural environments on agricultural holdings such as river and creek banks. Decisions about the protection of native vegetation or wetlands may also be influenced by changing climatic conditions (for example, if vegetation is considered to be thriving under good conditions, a farmer may see less need to protect it).

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is a partial measure of the prevention and minimisation of further damage to the environment.



The data source is of high quality.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to protecting and looking after the natural environment than preventing and minimising further damage. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of protecting and looking after the natural environment have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

A data gap currently exists for restoring our natural environment

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

In order to capture the spirit of this idea in a measure, further development will need to be undertaken. We will continue to explore options for a suitable indicator in the future.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to protecting and looking after the natural environment than restoring damage. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of protecting and looking after the natural environment have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

A data gap currently exists for the effectiveness of programs protecting our environment

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

In order to capture the spirit of this idea in a measure, further development will need to be undertaken. We will continue to explore options for a suitable indicator in the future.

In the meantime though, the report 'Australia: State of the Environment, 2011' provides assessment grades for management effectiveness across a variety of specific issues of environmental concern.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to protecting and looking after the natural environment than having effective programs. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of protecting and looking after the natural environment have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.



Further info for protecting the environment

Need some more info on the protecting the environment theme? Hopefully this page can point you in the right direction

Contents

Useful links

Glossary

References

Graph summary

This page contains the following further information for protecting the environment:

- Useful links
- Glossary
- References
- Graph summary

USEFUL LINKS

ABS Topics @ a Glance - Environment and Energy

Australian Government Department of the Environment

- Environment protection
- Collaborative Australian Protected Area Database (CAPAD)
- Commonwealth Marine Reserves
- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act
- National Reserve System

World Database on Protected Areas

GLOSSARY

International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Protected Area Management Categories

Category IA – Strict Nature Reserve: Protected area managed mainly for science.

Category IB – Wilderness Area: Protected area managed mainly for wilderness protection.

Category II – National Park: Protected area managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation.

Category III – Natural Monument: Protected area managed for conservation of specific natural features.

Category IV – Habitat/Species Management Area: Protected area managed mainly for conservation through management intervention.

Category V – Protected Landscape/Seascape: Protected area managed mainly for landscape/seascape conservation and recreation.

Category VI – Managed Resource Protected Areas: Protected area managed mainly for the sustainable use of natural ecosystems.

Protected areas

The International Union for Conservation of Nature defines a protected area as 'a clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values'. (Dudley, 2008)

REFERENCES

ABS, 2003, Environmental impacts of agriculture' in Year Book Australia, 2003 (cat. no. 1301.0)

ABS, 2013, Land Management and Farming in Australia, 2011-12 (cat. no. 4627.0)

Australian Government Department of the Environment, 2013, 'Collaborative Australian Protected Area Databases' (1997 to 2012), <<http://www.environment.gov.au/>>

Dudley, N (ed.), 2008, 'Guidelines for Applying Protected Areas Management Categories' IUCN: Gland, Switzerland. p.8-9. <<http://data.iucn.org/dbtw-wpd/edocs/PAPS-016.pdf>>

National Reserve System Task Group, 2009, Strategy for Australia's National Reserve System 2009-2030 <<http://www.environment.gov.au/>>

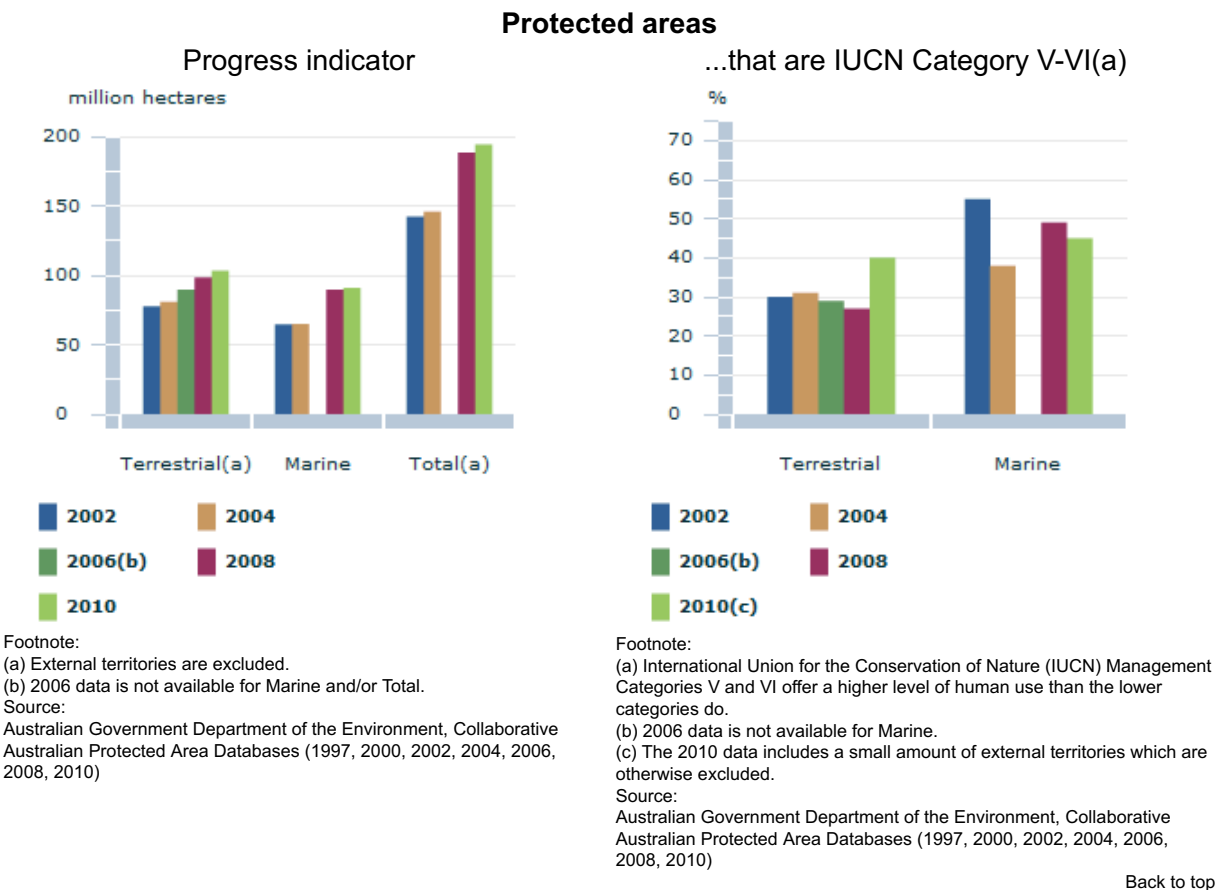
State of the Environment 2011 Committee, 2011, 'Australia: State of the environment, 2011', Independent report to the Australian Government Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, Canberra, DSEWPaC <<http://www.environment.gov.au/>>

United Nations Environment Programme, 2013, IUCN Management Categories

Click on the links below to be taken to a summary of the graphs from the corresponding tab within the protecting the environment theme:

Protect
Prevent and minimise further damage

PROTECT

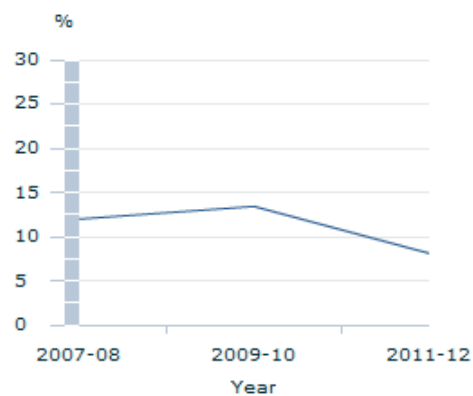


[Back to top](#)

PREVENT AND MINIMISE FURTHER DAMAGE

Native vegetation and wetlands on agricultural holdings protected for conservation purposes

Progress indicator



Footnote:

^ 2007-08 estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution.

Source:

ABS Land Management and Farming in Australia, 2011-12 (cat. no. 4627.0)

[Back to top](#)

This page first published 14 November 2013, last updated 8 May 2014



Sustaining the environment

Australians aspire to manage the environment sustainably for future generations

Overall progress? **Overall progress?**

Natural resources **Resources**

Land use **Land use**

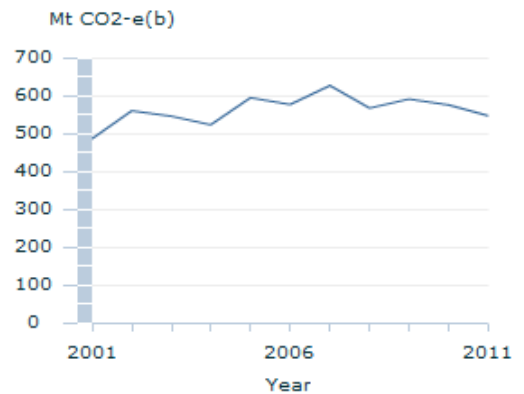
Water use **Water use**

Waste management **Waste**

Adaptive technology and Adaption strategies **Technology and Strategies**

Climate change **Climate**

Australia's net greenhouse gas emissions(a), excluding wildfires



Emissions

Headline progress indicator | ▼

Footnote (a) Based on UNFCCC Inventory. (b) Million tonne of Carbon Dioxide equivalent.

Source Unpublished data provided by the Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education, September 2013

Footnote(s): (a) Based on UNFCCC Inventory. (b) Million tonne of Carbon Dioxide equivalent.;(a) Based on UNFCCC Inventory. (b) Million tonne of Carbon Dioxide equivalent.;(a) Based on UNFCCC Inventory. (b) Million tonne of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent. (c) Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry.

Source(s): Unpublished data provided by the Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education, September 2013; Unpublished data provided by the Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education, September 2013; Unpublished data provided by the Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education, September 2013



Managing the environment sustainably in Australia has regressed over the last decade

Indicator: Australia's net greenhouse gas emissions

Why is this theme important?

Australians told us that acting to sustain the natural environment and its resources for the long term was

important to business, government, communities and society. People felt that how we use the environment's resources affects our present wellbeing and the wellbeing of future generations. In relation to this, people told us about the importance of environmental resources that provide the basis for food and industrial production. Australians supported the development of adaptive technologies and strategies to enable environmental sustainability. Many thought it was important to be aware of the impact of human activities or lifestyles on the environment, particularly those that either moderate resource depletion or threaten long term sustainability.

How have we decided there has been regress?

We have decided that there has been regress in managing the environment sustainably over the last decade because Australia's net greenhouse gas emissions (our headline progress indicator for managing the environment sustainably) has increased.

In 2011, Australia emitted 547 million tonnes (Mt) of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂-e). Although this was lower than a peak of 626 Mt CO₂-e in 2007, it was higher than the 486 Mt CO₂-e emitted in 2001.

Why this headline progress indicator?

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is an important part of the aspiration for managing the environment sustainably.

Net greenhouse gas emissions is considered a good measure of progress for managing the environment sustainably because a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions is likely to reflect increased efforts to combat the human impact that Australia is contributing towards climate change. Without reduced greenhouse gases, on an international scale, the negative environmental impacts of a changing climate will not only continue but increase. (Climate Commission, 2013)

To allow for the most consistent and complete time series we have used data based on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) accounting framework. We have also removed the contribution to emissions from wildfires. (Endnote 1)

Quality assessment (see key)



This indicator is a partial measure of the concept of managing the environment sustainably as described above (based on the Aspirations for our Nation).



The data source is of high quality.

Let's break it down!

Australia's net greenhouse gas emissions in 2011 (547 Mt CO₂-e) are higher than the 2001 levels, and higher than the level of emissions in 1990 (518 Mt CO₂-e).

In 2011, the Energy sector contributed the largest proportion of greenhouse gas emissions by sector (77%). This was an increase from a 56% share in 1990. The Energy sector had also shown the largest increase in amount of emissions over the period compared with other sectors (289 Mt CO₂-e in 1990 and 422 Mt CO₂-e in 2011, a 46% increase). Conversely, the Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry sector, without the contribution of wildfires, has gone from emitting 101 Mt CO₂-e to being a net sink for -5.8 Mt CO₂-e in 2011. Being a 'net sink' meant that the sector was removing more CO₂-e than it was emitting. A decline in emissions from forest land being converted to cropland or grassland was an important factor in the underlying trend of declining emissions for this sector since 1990 (DICCSTE, 2013).

Use the drop down menu on the graph to look at other breakdowns of the indicator (graphs are also available on the further info page).

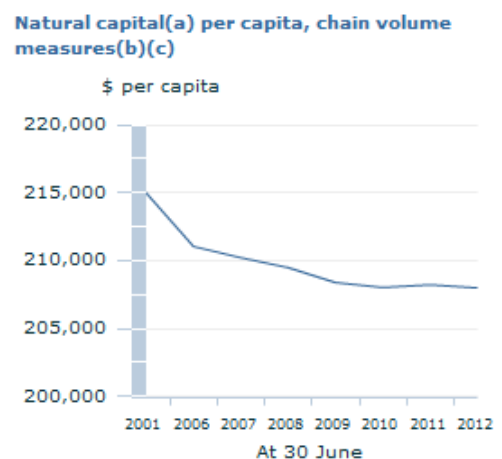
But that is not the whole story...

There is more to managing the environment sustainably for future generations than reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the elements of managing the environment sustainably have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

ENDNOTES

1. We have used the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change accounting framework for Measures of Australia's Progress' net greenhouse gas emissions data. However, Australia's international emissions commitment under the Kyoto Protocol and our domestic policy responses are focused on meeting international emissions reduction commitments based on the Kyoto Protocol accounting framework, which deals with emissions from the Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry sector differently than the UNFCCC accounting framework.



Natural capital per capita

Footnote (a) Subsoil assets, land and timber are being used as an estimate of natural capital. Water, habitat and ecosystems and soil resources are not explicitly included. (b) Reference year for chain volume measure is 2010-11. (c) Note that there is a five year gap between the first two years in the graph, followed by consecutive years of data.

Source ABS Information Paper: Towards the Australian Environmental-Economic Accounts, 2013 (cat. no. 4655.0.55.002)

Footnote(s): (a) Subsoil assets, land and timber are being used as an estimate of natural capital. Water, habitat and ecosystems and soil resources are not explicitly included. (b) Reference year for chain volume measure is 2010-11. (c) Note that there is a five year gap between the first two years in the graph, followed by consecutive years of data.

Source(s): ABS Information Paper: Towards the Australian Environmental-Economic Accounts, 2013 (cat. no. 4655.0.55.002)
The sustainable use of natural resources in Australia has regressed over the last decade

Indicator: Natural capital per capita, chain volume measures

Why is this element important?

Australians told us that the careful use of natural resources, which provide the basis for food and industrial production, is important because of the impacts upon the wellbeing of current and future generations.

Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about managing the environment sustainably.

How have we decided there has been regress?

We have decided that the sustainable use of natural resources in Australia has regressed over the last

decade because each Australian's share of the economic value of our natural capital, or natural capital per capita, (our progress indicator for the sustainable use of natural resources) has decreased.

Subsoil assets, land and timber are being used as an estimate of natural capital. Water, habitat and ecosystems and soil resources are not included.

Between 2000–01 and 2011–12, the economic value of Australia's natural capital per capita decreased by approximately \$7,000, from \$215,000 to \$208,000.

Over the period 2000–01 and 2011–12, Australia's natural capital base actually increased in economic value, from \$4,144 billion to \$4,718 billion. Despite this increase in the economic value of Australia's natural capital base, an even greater increase in population over the same period meant that each Australian's share had decreased. To see progress in the sustainable use of natural resources, the growth in the economic value of Australia's natural capital would need to at least keep pace with population growth.

Why this progress indicator?

Sustainable use of Australia's natural resources is an important part of the aspiration for managing the environment sustainably.

Natural capital per capita is considered a good measure of progress for the sustainable use of natural resources because it shows how Australia's stock of natural capital is changing over time in relation to our population. A declining amount of natural capital per person is considered regress because it means reduced opportunities for future populations to receive the benefits that our natural capital base has to offer.

Another benefit of this measure is that it is a chain volume measure. This means that it removes the direct effects of price change to allow an appropriate comparison over time.

However, the measure used here only captures part of overall natural capital, i.e. the assets that have direct economic value. The development of standardised methods for identifying and separately distinguishing the value of environmental assets and ecosystem services is an on-going area of work. In addition, the use of natural capital may have certain detrimental effects such as pollution, soil degradation, salinity, pests, loss of biodiversity and habitat, declining water quality and quantity, which may not always be immediately obvious and may not be reflected in the changing economic value of natural capital (ABS, 2013).

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is a partial measure of the sustainable use of natural resources.



The data source is of high quality.

Let's break it down!

In 2011–12, the value of Australia's natural capital largely consisted of land (86%) and subsoil assets (14%), while timber made up less than 1% (ABS, 2013).

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to managing the environment sustainably for future generations than the sustainable use of natural resources. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of managing the environment sustainably have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

A data gap currently exists for sustainable land use

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

In order to capture the spirit of this idea in a measure, further development will need to be undertaken. We will continue to explore options for a suitable indicator in the future.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to managing the environment sustainably for future generations than sustainable land use. Click through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of managing the environment sustainably have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

A data gap currently exists for sustainable water use

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

In order to capture the spirit of this idea in a measure, further development will need to be undertaken. We will continue to explore options for a suitable indicator in the future.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to managing the environment sustainably for future generations than water use. Click through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of managing the environment sustainably have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

Waste management in Australia has regressed since 2002-03

Indicator: Amount of waste disposed per capita

Why is this important?

Waste generation accompanies many human activities. Waste can be solid, liquid or gaseous, and comes from households, building and demolition sites and industry. Waste is expensive to deal with and can have a damaging impact on the environment, affect people's health and influence trade in the economy.

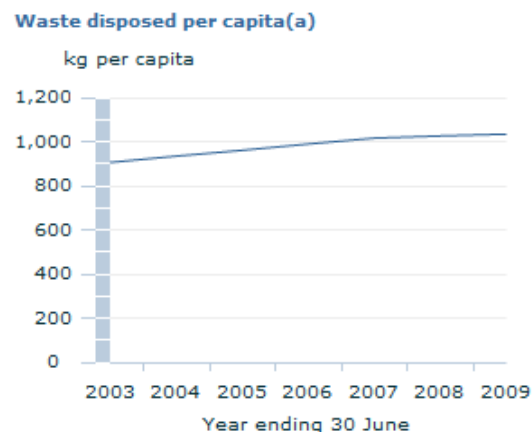
Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about managing the environment sustainably.

How have we decided there has been regress?

We have decided that waste management in Australia has regressed since 2002-03 because the amount of waste disposed per capita (our progress indicator for waste management) has increased.

In 2008-09, 1,035 kilograms of solid waste (not including fly ash) were disposed of per person in Australia. This was an increase from 907 kilograms in 2002-03. This means that we were disposing 128 more kilograms of solid waste per person in 2008-09 than we were six years before. (Endnote 1)

Why this progress indicator?



Subtotal(a)

Progress indicator

Footnote (a) For a fairer comparison over time, Fly ash is excluded in 2008-09 (Fly ash being the largest contributor of the additional waste categories reported that year due to a change in methodology). Data for years in between Waste and Recycling in Australia reports are estimates using linear interpolation (2003-04 to 2005-06 and 2007-08).

Source Hyder Consulting, Waste and Recycling in Australia 2011

Footnote(s): (a) For a fairer comparison over time, Fly ash is excluded in 2008-09 (Fly ash being the largest contributor of the additional waste categories reported that year due to a change in methodology). Data for years in between Waste and Recycling in Australia reports are estimates using linear interpolation (2003-04 to 2005-06 and 2007-08).; (a) For a fairer comparison over time, Fly ash is excluded in 2008-09 (Fly ash being the largest contributor of the additional waste categories reported that year due to a change in methodology). (b) 2002-03 data not available for Tasmania and Northern Territory.

Source(s): Hyder Consulting, Waste and Recycling in Australia 2011; Hyder Consulting, Waste and Recycling in Australia 2011
Waste management is an important part of the aspiration for managing the environment sustainably.

Waste disposed per person is considered a good measure of progress for waste management because it provides us with an indication of success in either reducing the generation of waste, or increasing the reuse and recycling of waste. However, this indicator doesn't shed light on the success of the disposal process itself in causing the least impact on the health of the environment, our population and economy.

There are some other limitations to this indicator. Although there has been improvement in the consistent collation of waste data across jurisdictions in recent years, care needs to be taken when comparing the latest estimates with previous years. Because of difficulties in measuring liquid and gaseous waste, this indicator only includes solid waste.

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is a partial measure of waste management.



The data source is of acceptable quality.

Let's break it down!

Over the six years to 2008-09, waste disposed per capita increased dramatically in both Queensland (from 715 to 1,159 kg per person) and Western Australia (from 1,380 to 1,827 kg per person). A drop in waste disposed per capita in South Australia is at least in part due to fly ash being included in the estimates for that State prior to 2008-09.

Looking at waste disposed per capita gives us a sense of how well our waste management system is coping, with the effect of population growth removed. However, the total amount of waste that is being disposed is also very important. Total waste disposed increased from 17.4 million tonnes to 22.6 million tonnes over the six years to 2008-09 (not including fly ash).

Use the drop down menu on the graph to look at other breakdowns of the indicator (graphs are also available on the further info page).

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to managing the environment sustainably for future generations than waste management. Click through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of managing the environment sustainably have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

ENDNOTES

1. The best waste estimates from 2008-09 onwards include several categories of waste not previously reported - fly ash (except in South Australia), Hazardous waste (including Quarantine waste) and Biosolids. For a better comparison over time, Fly ash has been excluded from the 2008-09 estimates discussed on this page (fly ash being the largest contributor of the additional waste categories reported that year).

A data gap currently exists for adaptive technology

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

A range of possible indicators are being considered for adaptive technology, such as looking at the proportion of energy supply that is renewable. In order to capture the spirit of this idea in a measure, further development will need to be undertaken. We will continue to explore options for a suitable indicator in the future.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to managing the environment sustainably for future generations than adaptive technology. Click through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of managing the environment sustainably have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

A data gap currently exists for adaption strategies

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

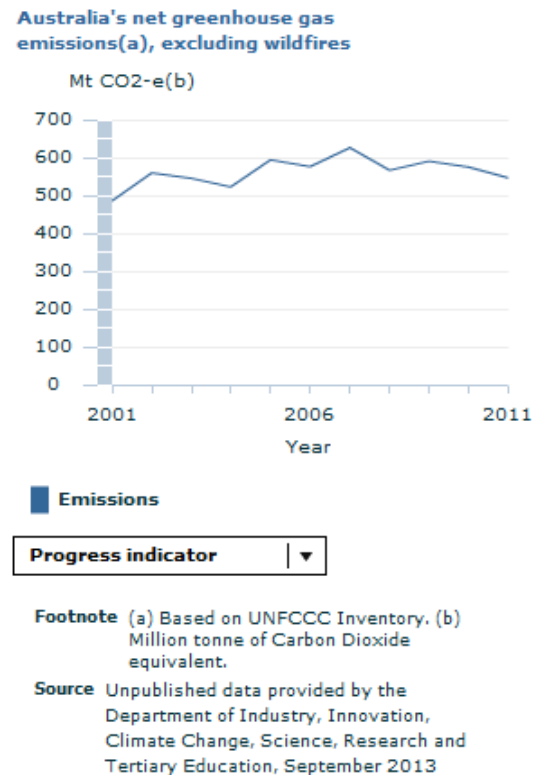
In order to capture the spirit of this idea in a measure, further development will need to be undertaken. We will continue to explore options for a suitable indicator in the future.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to managing the environment sustainably for future generations than adaption strategies.

Click through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of managing the environment sustainably have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.



Footnote(s): (a) Based on UNFCCC Inventory. (b) Million tonne of Carbon Dioxide equivalent.;(a) Based on UNFCCC Inventory. (b) Million tonne of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent. (c) Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry.

Source(s): Unpublished data provided by the Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education, September 2013; Unpublished data provided by the Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education, September 2013; Unpublished data provided by the Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education, September 2013

Responding to climate change has regressed within Australia over the last decade, despite positive movement in recent years

Indicator: Australia's net greenhouse gas emissions

Why is this element important?

If our contribution towards a changing climate is unchecked into the future, the impacts that this is already having upon our environment will increase into the future. These impacts, including a drying of the south of Australia, increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events and rising sea levels, will threaten our environment and our ability to depend upon it. (Australian Government Department of the Environment, 2013)

Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about managing the environment sustainably.

How have we decided there has been regress?

We have decided that responding to climate change has regressed within Australia over the last decade because Australia's net greenhouse gas emissions (our progress indicator for responding to climate

change) has increased.

In 2011, Australia emitted 547 million tonnes (Mt) of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂-e). Although this was lower than a peak of 626 Mt CO₂-e in 2007, it was higher than the 486 Mt CO₂-e emitted in 2001.

Why this progress indicator?

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is an important part of the aspiration to manage the environment sustainably for future generations.

An indicator of net greenhouse gas emissions is considered a good measure of progress for responding to climate change because without reduced greenhouse gases, on an international scale, the negative environmental impacts of a changing climate will not only continue but increase (Climate Commission, 2013).

To allow for the most consistent and complete time series, we have used data based on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) accounting framework. We have also removed the contribution to emissions from wildfires. (Endnote 1)

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is a partial measure of responding to climate change.



The data source is of high quality.

Let's break it down!

Australia's net greenhouse gas emissions in 2011 (547 Mt CO₂-e) are higher than the 2001 levels, and higher than the level of emissions in 1990 (518 Mt CO₂-e).

In 2011, the Energy sector contributed the largest proportion of greenhouse gas emissions by sector (77%). This was an increase from a 56% share in 1990. The Energy sector had also shown the largest increase in amount of emissions over the period compared with other sectors (289 Mt CO₂-e in 1990 and 422 Mt CO₂-e in 2011, a 46% increase). Conversely, the Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry sector, without the contribution of wildfires, has gone from emitting 101 Mt CO₂-e to being a net sink for -5.8 Mt CO₂-e in 2011. Being a 'net sink' meant that the sector was removing more CO₂-e than it was emitting. A decline in emissions from forest land being converted to cropland or grassland was an important factor in the underlying trend of declining emissions for this sector since 1990 (DICCSTE, 2013).

Use the drop down menu on the graph to look at other breakdowns of the indicator (graphs are also available on the further info page).

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to managing the environment sustainably than responding to climate change. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of managing the environment sustainably have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

ENDNOTES

1. We have used the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change accounting framework for Measures of Australia's Progress' net greenhouse gas emissions data. However, Australia's international emissions commitment under the Kyoto Protocol and our domestic policy responses are focused on meeting international emissions reduction commitments based on the Kyoto Protocol accounting framework, which deals with emissions from the Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry sector differently than the UNFCCC accounting framework

This page first published 14 November 2013, last updated 8 May 2014



Further info for sustaining the environment

Need some more info on the sustaining the environment theme? Hopefully this page can point you in the right direction

Contents

Useful links

Glossary

References

Graph summary

This page contains the following further information for sustaining the environment:

- Useful links
- Glossary
- References
- Graph summary

USEFUL LINKS

ABS Topics @ a Glance - Environment and Energy

Australian Government Department of the Environment

- Australian Greenhouse Emissions Information System (AGEIS)
- Sustainable Australia Report 2013
- Sustainable communities

United National Framework Convention on Climate Change

GLOSSARY

Climate change

A change in the weather over periods of time that range from decades to millions of years. It can be a change in the average weather or a change in the distribution of weather events around an average (for example, greater or fewer extreme weather events). Climate change may be limited to a specific region, or may occur across the whole earth. In recent usage, climate change usually refers to changes in modern climate and is often referred to as global warming.

Fly ash

Fly ash is a pre-consumer waste generated during the combustion of material, most usually coal for electricity generation (a secondary industry). It is also sometimes classified as a hazardous or regulated waste. (Hyder consulting, 2012)

Greenhouse gas

A collective term for those gases which reduce the loss of heat from the earth's atmosphere and thus contribute to global warming and climate change. Examples of greenhouse gases are water vapour, carbon dioxide, atmospheric methane, nitrous oxide, ozone and chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs).

Kyoto Protocol

The Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is an international treaty that sets binding obligations on industrialised countries to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. The Protocol was adopted in 1997, and entered into force in 2005.

Landfill

A site used for the controlled and legal deposit of solid waste onto or into land. (Hyder consulting, 2012)

Mt CO2-e

Millions of tonnes (Mt) of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂-e) gases.

Natural capital

While there are four basic categories of natural capital that are generally recognised: air, water (fresh, ground water and marine), land (including soil, space and landscape) and habitats (including the ecosystems, flora and fauna which they both comprise and support)), the System of National Accounts (SNA) only includes estimates of the value of these resources where they fit the definition of an economic asset (i.e an economic asset must have an identifiable owner and the owner must be able to hold or use these assets for economic gain). In this regard, our partial measure of natural capital includes the value of subsoil assets, land and timber, while other aspects such as water, habitat and ecosystems and soil resources are not explicitly included.

Recycling

A resource recovery method involving the collection and processing of waste for use as a raw material in the manufacture of the same or similar non-waste products.

Reuse

Recovering value from a discarded item without reprocessing or re-manufacture. Typically this will involve an item being reused in its original function or similar. It does not preclude relatively minor pre-treatments like washing, reconditioning or painting.

Sustainability

While sustainability is a concept that continues to evolve, in MAP, we have used the following broad 'capital' approach to defining sustainability. A capital approach to sustainability requires that the stock of capital from which wellbeing is produced not be diminished over time relative to the population. For a more in-depth discussion of this concept see the 'Sustainability' chapter of ABS Completing the Picture - Environmental Accounting in Practice, May 2012 (cat. no. 4628.0.55.001).

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

The UNFCCC is an international environmental treaty negotiated at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.

Waste disposed

Solid waste disposed of to landfill, incinerated or destroyed without energy recovery, or is unrecovered litter. Solid waste being anything that is 'spadeable', i.e. can be picked up with a spade. (Hyder consulting, 2012).

REFERENCES

ABS, 2012, Completing the Picture - Environmental Accounting in Practice, May 2012 (cat. no. 4628.0.55.001)

ABS, 2013, Information Paper: Towards the Australian Environmental-Economic Accounts, 2013 (cat. no. 4655.0.55.002)

Australian Government Department of the Environment, 2013, 'Climate change impacts in Australia', web page accessed 8 October, 2013

(The then) Australian Government Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education, 2013, National Inventory Report 2011, Volume 2

Climate Commission, 'Effects', website archived by the National Library of Australia, website accessed 8

October 2013 <<http://pandora.nla.gov.au/>>

Hyder Consulting, 2012, Waste and Recycling in Australia 2011, DSEWPaC <<http://www.environment.gov.au>>

State of the Environment 2011 Committee, 2011, 'Australia: State of the environment, 2011', Independent report to the Australian Government Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, Canberra, DSEWPaC <<http://www.environment.gov.au/>>

Click on the links below to be taken to a summary of the graphs from the corresponding tab within the sustaining the environment theme:

Overall progress?

Natural resources

Waste management

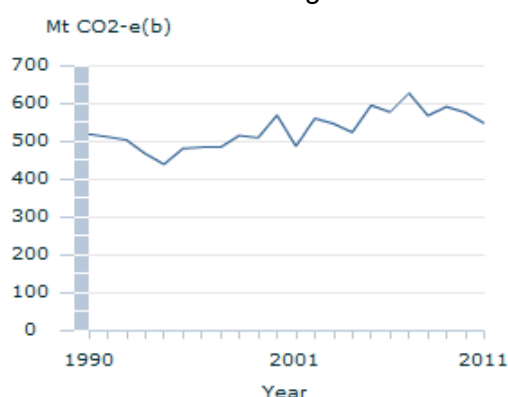
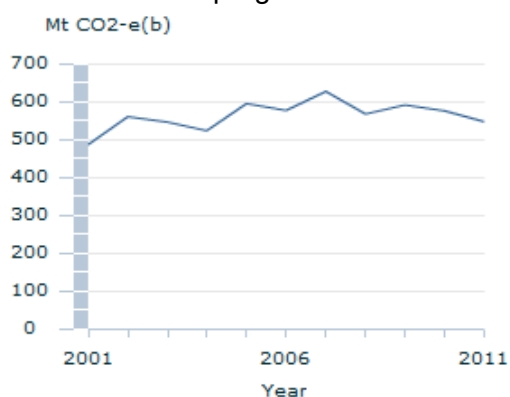
Climate change

OVERALL PROGRESS?

Australia's net greenhouse gas emissions(a), excluding wildfires

Headline progress indicator

...over the longer term



Footnote:

(a) Based on UNFCCC Inventory.

(b) Million tonne of Carbon Dioxide equivalent.

Source:

Unpublished data provided by the then Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education, September 2013

Footnote:

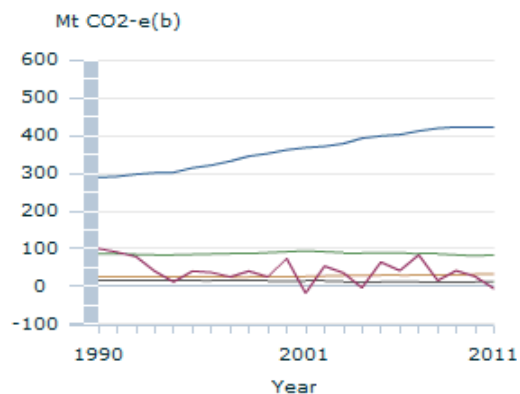
(a) Based on UNFCCC Inventory.

(b) Million tonne of Carbon Dioxide equivalent.

Source:

Unpublished data provided by the then Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education, September 2013

...by sector



Footnote:

(a) Based on UNFCCC Inventory.

(b) Million tonne of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent.

(c) Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry.

Source:

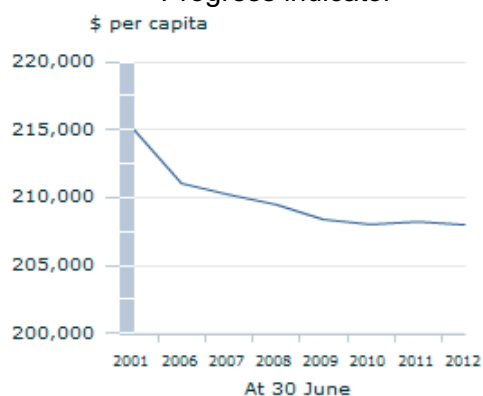
Unpublished data provided by the then Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education, September 2013

[Back to top](#)

NATURAL RESOURCES

Natural capital(a) per capita, chain volume measures(b)(c)

Progress indicator



Footnote:

(a) Subsoil assets, land and timber are being used as an estimate of natural capital. Water, habitat and ecosystems and soil resources are not explicitly included.

(b) Reference year for chain volume measure is 2010-11.

(c) Note that there is a five year gap between the first two years in the graph, followed by consecutive years of data.

Source:

ABS Information Paper: Towards the Australian Environmental-Economic Accounts, 2013 (cat. no. 4655.0.55.002)

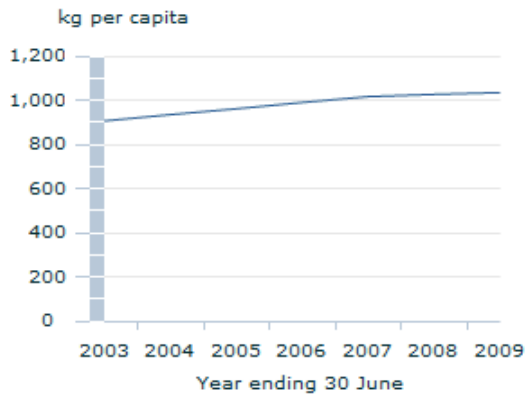
[Back to top](#)

WASTE MANAGEMENT

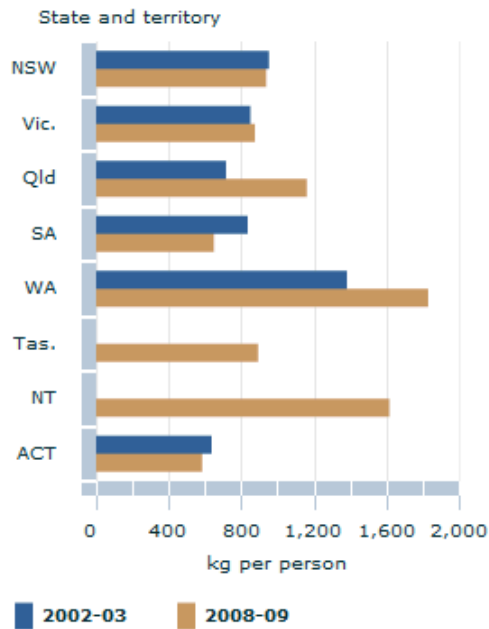
Waste disposed per capita(a)

Progress indicator

...by state and territory



Footnote:
 (a) For a fairer comparison over time, Fly ash is excluded in 2008-09 (Fly ash being the largest contributor of the additional waste categories reported that year due to a change in methodology). Data for years in between Waste and Recycling in Australia reports are estimates using linear interpolation (2003-04 to 2005-06 and 2007-08).
 Source:
 Hyder Consulting, Waste and Recycling in Australia 2011

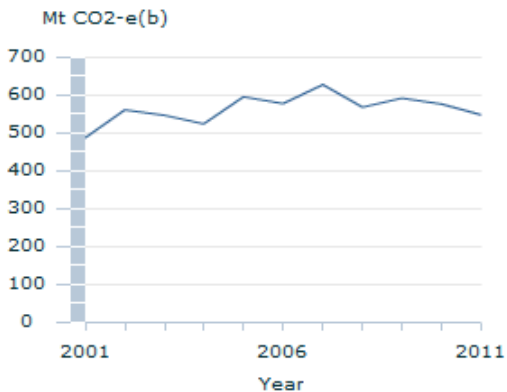


Footnote:
 (a) For a fairer comparison over time, Fly ash is excluded in 2008-09 (Fly ash being the largest contributor of the additional waste categories reported that year due to a change in methodology).
 (b) 2002-03 data not available for Tasmania and Northern Territory.
 Source:
 Hyder Consulting, Waste and Recycling in Australia 2011

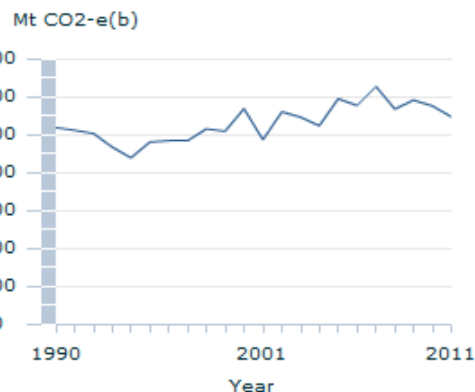
[Back to top](#)

CLIMATE CHANGE

Australia's net greenhouse gas emissions(a), excluding wildfires Progress indicator ...over the longer term

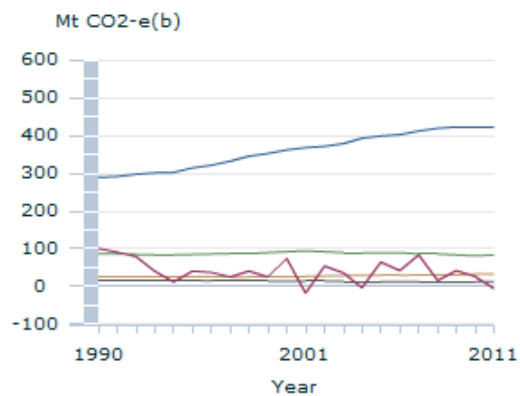


Footnote:
 (a) Based on UNFCCC Inventory.
 (b) Million tonne of Carbon Dioxide equivalent.
 Source:
 Unpublished data provided by the then Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education, September 2013



Footnote:
 (a) Based on UNFCCC Inventory.
 (b) Million tonne of Carbon Dioxide equivalent.
 Source:
 Unpublished data provided by the then Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education, September 2013

...by sector



- **Energy**
- **Industrial processes**
- **Agriculture**
- **Waste**
- **LULUCF(c)**

Footnote:

(a) Based on UNFCCC Inventory.

(b) Million tonne of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent.

(c) Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry.

Source:

Unpublished data provided by the then Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education, September 2013

[Back to top](#)



Healthy built environment

Australians aspire to healthy built environments

Overall progress? **Overall progress?**

Quality built environment **Quality**

People friendly **People friendly**

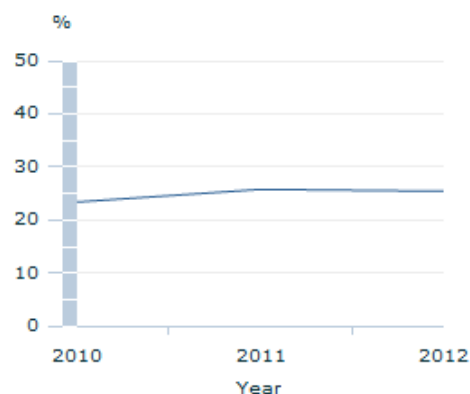
Cultural and heritage friendly **Culture**

Access to natural areas **Natural**

Ecologically friendly **Ecological**

Access to services and amenities **Amenities**

Capital city residents who feel that their city has a good road network and minimal traffic congestion



Capital city residents

Headline progress indicator ▼

Source Unpublished data from the Property Council of Australia's 2010, 2011 and 2012 'My City' surveys conducted by Auspoll

Source(s): Unpublished data from the Property Council of Australia's 2010, 2011 and 2012 'My City' surveys conducted by Auspoll; Unpublished data from the Property Council of Australia's 2010, 2011 and 2012 'My City' surveys conducted by Auspoll



The health of our built environments in Australia has progressed in recent years

Indicator: Proportion of capital city residents who feel that their city has a good road network and minimal traffic congestion

Why is this theme important?

Close to two-thirds of Australians live in our capital cities, with many living in other urban centres. On a daily basis, people use buildings, roads and pathways, transport systems, sewage systems, parks and other built environments.

Australians told us that they cared about the importance of the liveability of urban environments. For example, people said that built environments should be well planned, provide adequate housing and access to services, and support health and safety. People also felt that these environments should be

somewhere that people enjoy living and being, and should support positive social interaction and inclusion. Built environments have practical value, as well as heritage, social and aesthetic aspects which contribute to wellbeing. People aspired to be able to support the health of the natural environment both within their urban setting and beyond.

How have we decided there has been progress?

We have decided that healthy built environments in Australia have progressed in recent years because the proportion of capital city residents who feel that their city has a good road network and minimal traffic congestion (our headline progress indicator for healthy built environments) has increased.

In 2012, 25% of capital city residents felt that their city had a good road network and minimal traffic congestion. This was an increase from the 23% who felt the same way in 2010.

Why this headline progress indicator?

Effective transport systems are an important part of the aspiration for healthy built environments.

The proportion of capital city residents who feel that their city has a good road network and minimal traffic congestion is considered a good measure of progress for the health of our built environment because as our cities grow, congestion threatens to have an impact upon the wellbeing and health of many city dwellers. Increasing levels of satisfaction with road networks and congestion are associated with other benefits for residents, such as reduced pollution, reduced time lost sitting in traffic and reduced feelings of stress.

There are many other aspects of healthy built environments mentioned above that this indicator does not take into consideration.

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is a partial measure of the concept of healthy built environments as described above (based on Aspirations for our Nation)



The data source is of acceptable quality.

Let's break it down!

In 2012, the cities with the highest proportions of residents that felt that their city had a good road network and minimal traffic congestion were Darwin (73%) and Canberra (72%). Hobart was the only other city to have at least half its residents feel this way (55%).

Between 2010 and 2012, Canberra, Hobart, Brisbane and Sydney all had an increase in the proportion of their residents feeling positive about this aspect of their respective cities, while Adelaide was the only city that experienced a significant decline.

Despite Sydney's improvement over the period, it had the lowest proportion of residents happy with its roads and congestion (13% in 2010 and 17% in 2012).

Use the drop down menu on the graph to look at other breakdowns of the indicator (graphs are also available on the further info page).

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to healthy built environments than perceptions of road networks and traffic congestion. Unfortunately though, many of the elements of healthy built environments remain hard to measure, and are data gaps. Look through the other tabs on this page to see what these important elements are.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

A data gap currently exists for the quality of our built environment

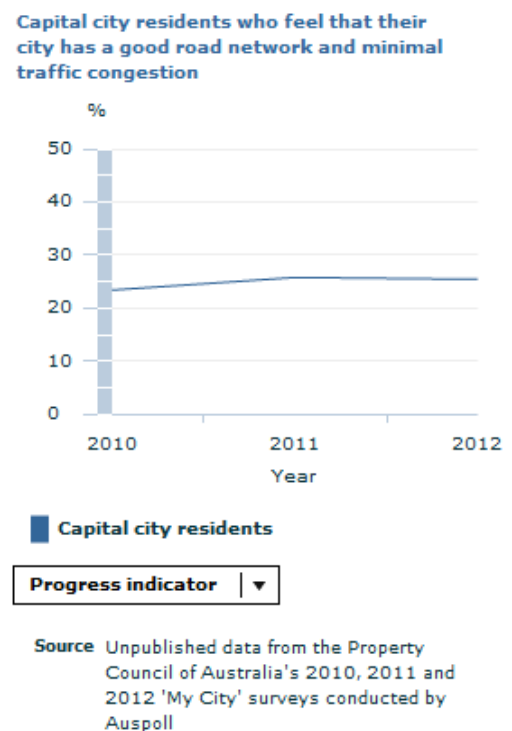
In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

In order to capture the spirit of this idea in a measure, further development will need to be undertaken. We will continue to explore options for a suitable indicator in the future.

There is more to healthy built environments than the built environment's quality. Unfortunately though, many of the other elements of healthy built environments remain hard to measure, and are data gaps. Look through the other tabs on this page to see what these important elements are.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.



Source(s): Unpublished data from the Property Council of Australia's 2010, 2011 and 2012 'My City' surveys conducted by Auspoll; Unpublished data from the Property Council of Australia's 2010, 2011 and 2012 'My City' surveys conducted by Auspoll
The degree to which Australia's built environments are people friendly has progressed in recent years

Indicator: Proportion of capital city residents who feel that their city has a good road network and minimal traffic congestion

Why is this element important?

A strong theme of the consultation was the importance of the liveability of urban environments. People felt that these environments should be somewhere they enjoy living and being, that also supports positive social interaction and inclusion.

Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about healthy built environments.

How have we decided there has been progress?

We have decided that people friendly built environments in Australia have progressed in recent years because the proportion of capital city residents who feel that their city has a good road network and minimal traffic congestion (our progress indicator for people friendly built environments) has increased.

In 2012, 25% of capital city residents felt that their city had a good road network and minimal traffic congestion. This was an increase from the 23% who felt the same way in 2010.

Why this progress indicator?

Satisfaction with practical and well planned cities is an important part of the aspiration for healthy built environments.

The proportion of capital city residents who feel that their city has a good road network and minimal traffic congestion is considered a good measure of progress for people friendly built environments because as our cities grow, congestion threatens to impact, and frustrate, an increasing number of city dwellers. If we see an increasing level of satisfaction with road networks and congestion, then we can infer that residents are feeling happier with the ease with which they can move around their city and more easily make use of the benefits that city life has to offer.

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is a partial measure of people friendly built environments.



The data source is of acceptable quality.

Let's break it down!

In 2012, the cities with the highest proportions of residents that felt that their city had a good road network and minimal traffic congestion were Darwin (73%) and Canberra (72%). Hobart was the only other city to have at least half its residents feel this way (55%).

Between 2010 and 2012, Canberra, Hobart, Brisbane and Sydney all had an increase in the proportion of their residents feeling positive about this aspect of their respective cities, while Adelaide was the only city that experienced a significant decline.

Despite Sydney's improvement over the period, it had the lowest proportion of residents happy with its roads and congestion (13% in 2010 and 17% in 2012).

Use the drop down menu on the graph to look at other breakdowns of the indicator (graphs are also available on the further info page).

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to healthy built environments than their people friendly nature. Unfortunately though, many of the elements of healthy built environments remain hard to measure, and are data gaps. Look through the other tabs on this page to see what these important elements are.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

A data gap currently exists for the cultural and heritage value of our built environments

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

A range of possible indicators are being considered for the cultural and heritage value of our built environments, such as people's cultural participation or the number of heritage sites. In order to capture the spirit of this idea in a measure, further development will need to be undertaken. We will continue to explore options for a suitable indicator in the future.

There is more to healthy built environments than cultural and heritage value. Unfortunately though, many of the other elements of healthy built environments remain hard to measure, and are data gaps. Look through the other tabs on this page to see what these important elements are.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

A data gap currently exists for access to natural areas in our built environments

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

A range of possible indicators are being considered for access to natural areas within our built environments, such as looking at the extent of natural or green spaces within metropolitan or urban areas. In order to capture the spirit of this idea in a measure, further development will need to be undertaken. We will continue to explore options for a suitable indicator in the future.

There is more to healthy built environments than access to natural areas. Unfortunately though, many of the other elements of healthy built environments remain hard to measure, and are data gaps. Look through the other tabs on this page to see what these important elements are.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

A data gap currently exists for the ecological friendliness of our built environments

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

A range of possible indicators are being considered for the ecological friendliness of our built environments, such as looking at the energy efficiency, water usage, and waste management of buildings, because of the impact that these processes have upon the environment and its ecosystems. In order to capture the spirit of this idea in a measure, further development will need to be undertaken. We will continue to explore options for a suitable indicator in the future.

There is more to healthy built environments than their ecologically friendly nature. Unfortunately though, many of the other elements of healthy built environments remain hard to measure, and are data gaps. Look through the other tabs on this page to see what these important elements are.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

A data gap currently exists for access to services and amenities in our built environments

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

We propose to use the proportion of people who have difficulty accessing services due to lack of adequate services in their area or transport problems as a progress indicator for the access to services

and amenities element in the future, when sufficient data becomes available for us to assess whether progress has been made.

There is more to healthy built environments than access to services and amenities. Unfortunately though, many of the other elements of healthy built environments remain hard to measure, and are data gaps. Look through the other tabs on this page to see what these important elements are.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

This page first published 14 November 2013, last updated 8 May 2014



Further info for healthy built environment

Need some more info on the healthy built environment theme? Hopefully this page can point you in the right direction

Contents

Useful links

Glossary

References

Graph summary

This page contains the following further information for healthy built environment:

- Useful links
- Glossary
- References
- Graph summary

USEFUL LINKS

ABS Topics @ a Glance - Environment and Energy

Australian Government Department of the Environment

Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council

National Australian Built Environment Rating System

GLOSSARY

Built environment

The Australia State of the Environment 2011 report describes the built environment as 'the human-made surroundings where people gather to live, work, and play. It encompasses both the physical structures where people do these activities and the infrastructures, such as transport, water, and energy networks. The built environment is a material, spatial and cultural product of human labour and imagination.' (State of the Environment 2011 Committee, 2011)

REFERENCES

Australian Government Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, 2010, 'State of the Air in Australia: 1999-2008', Canberra, DSEWPaC <<http://www.environment.gov.au/>>

Property Council of Australia, 2013, 'My City: The people's verdict' <<https://www.propertyoz.com.au>>

State of the Environment 2011 Committee, 2011, 'Australia: State of the environment, 2011', Independent report to the Australian Government Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, Canberra, DSEWPaC <<http://www.environment.gov.au/>>

Click on the links below to be taken to a summary of the graphs from the corresponding tab within the healthy built environment theme:

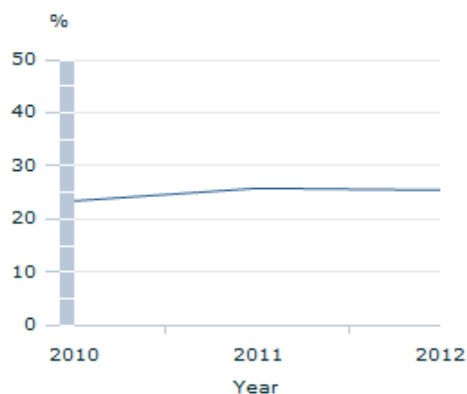
Overall progress?

People friendly

OVERALL PROGRESS?

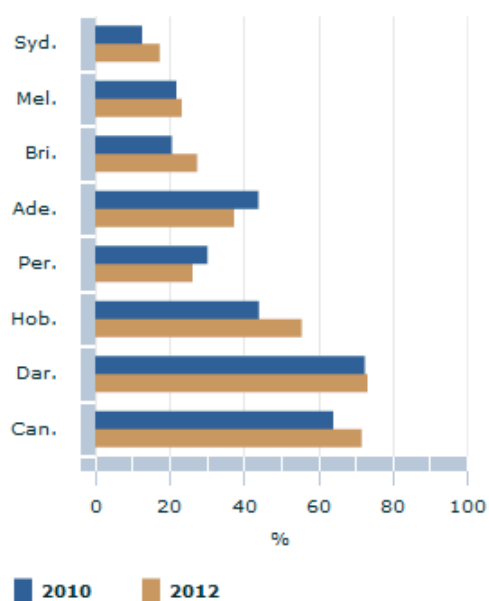
Capital city residents who feel that their city has a good road network and minimal traffic congestion

Headline progress indicator



Source:
Unpublished data from the Property Council of Australia's 2010, 2011 and 2012 'My City' surveys conducted by Auspoll

...by capital city



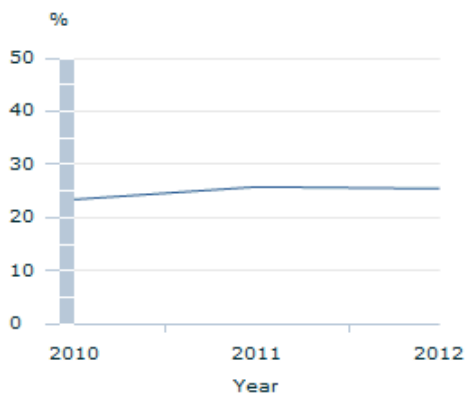
Source:
Unpublished data from the Property Council of Australia's 2010, 2011 and 2012 'My City' surveys conducted by Auspoll

[Back to top](#)

PEOPLE FRIENDLY

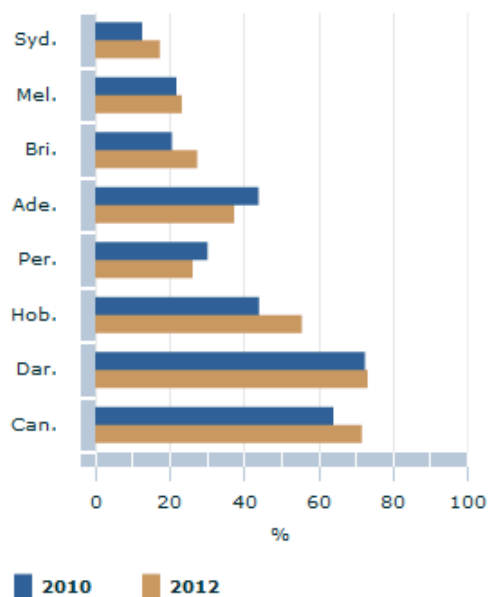
Capital city residents who feel that their city has a good road network and minimal traffic congestion

Progress indicator



Source:
Unpublished data from the Property Council of Australia's 2010, 2011 and 2012 'My City' surveys conducted by Auspoll

...by capital city



Source:
Unpublished data from the Property Council of Australia's 2010, 2011 and 2012 'My City' surveys conducted by Auspoll

[Back to top](#)



Working together for a healthy environment

Australians aspire for government, business and communities to work together locally and globally for a healthy environment

Overall progress?**Overall progress?**

Participation**Participation**

Alignment**Alignment**

Collaboration**Collaboration**

Shared responsibility**Shared responsibility**

International**International**

Useful links**Links**



A data gap currently exists for working together for a healthy environment

Why is this theme important?

Australians told us they saw achieving a healthy environment as a collective effort. They felt that the natural environment affects everyone, and that all people, groups, businesses and nations have a responsibility to participate in protecting it. In caring for and sustaining the environment, they hoped for alignment between the different levels of government, for collaboration and linking across public and private activities and initiatives, and for international cooperation.

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

While we are considering ways to better understand progress of working together for a healthy environment, the concept is broad and difficult to summarise in any one measure. In order to capture the spirit of this idea in a measure, further development will need to be undertaken. We will continue to explore options for a suitable indicator in the future.

But that is not the whole story...

While there are several elements to this theme of working together for a healthy environment, each is currently a data gap due to the difficulties in measuring progress in this area. We will continue to explore options for suitable indicators in the future.

Check out useful links tab for this chapter for more information.

A data gap currently exists for participation in working together for a healthy environment

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

A range of possible indicators are being considered for participation in working together for a healthy environment, such as the proportion of people involved in environmental organisations. In order to capture the spirit of this idea in a measure, further development will need to be undertaken. We will continue to explore options for a suitable indicator in the future.

While there are other elements besides participation within the theme of working together for a healthy

environment, each is currently a data gap due to the difficulties in measuring progress in this area. We will continue to explore options for suitable indicators in the future.

Check out useful links tab for this chapter for more information.

A data gap currently exists for the alignment of environmental activities and initiatives

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

At the moment we are considering this element to be the second type of data gap listed above, i.e. although the concept is important for progress, it may not lend itself to meaningful measurement. This being the case, while we will continue to consider this area of progress there is no guarantee that we will have a progress indicator for it in the future.

While there are other elements besides the alignment of environmental activities and initiatives within the theme of working together for a healthy environment, each is currently a data gap due to the difficulties in measuring progress in this area. We will continue to explore options for suitable indicators in the future.

Check out useful links tab for this chapter for more information.

A data gap currently exists for collaboration towards a healthy environment

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

A range of possible indicators are being considered for collaboration towards a healthy environment, such as expenditure on environmental research and development. In order to capture the spirit of this idea in a measure, further development will need to be undertaken. We will continue to explore options for a suitable indicator in the future.

While there are other elements besides collaboration towards a healthy environment within the theme of working together for a healthy environment, each is currently a data gap due to the difficulties in measuring progress in this area. We will continue to explore options for suitable indicators in the future.

Check out useful links tab for this chapter for more information.

A data gap currently exists for the recognition of shared environmental responsibility

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

At the moment we are considering this element to be the second type of data gap listed above, i.e. although the concept is important for progress, it may not lend itself to meaningful measurement. This being the case, while we will continue to consider this area of progress there is no guarantee that we will have a progress indicator for it in the future.

While there are other elements besides the recognition of shared environmental responsibility within the theme of working together for a healthy environment, each is currently a data gap due to the difficulties in measuring progress in this area. We will continue to explore options for suitable indicators in the

future.

Check out useful links tab for this chapter for more information.

A data gap currently exists for Australia's involvement in international work for a healthy environment.

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

We propose to use Australian foreign aid towards the environment as a progress indicator for the international element in the future. Improvements need to be made to the consistent reporting of this data before we can be confident in its use.

While there are other elements besides Australia's involvement in international work for a healthy environment within the theme of working together for a healthy environment, each is currently a data gap due to the difficulties in measuring progress in this area. We will continue to explore options for suitable indicators in the future.

Check out useful links tab for this chapter for more information.

USEFUL LINKS

[ABS Topics @ a Glance - Environment and Energy](#)

[AusAID](#)

- [Aid Issues - Environment](#)

[Australian Government Department of the Environment](#)

[Caring for our Country](#)

[United Nations Environment Program](#)



Governance

Australians aspire to a free society where governance processes are trusted and everyone is able to participate in decision making which affects their lives

Measures of Australia's Progress (MAP) presents a view of Australian life divided into four main areas: society, economy, environment and the new area of governance. During our latest consultation, we asked Australians about what is important to them for national progress for each of these areas. The consultation found that governance was an important part of the overall picture of Australia's progress and Australians sought to identify the aspects they felt were most important to aspire to (or aim for) to achieve good governance. While there are limitations around the availability of data for the new area of governance, we have sought to provide indicators that will capture the spirit of, and measure, these aspirations for progress in this area. The statement at the top of this page is the overall aspiration Australians had for governance.

In the context of MAP, governance refers to the systems, processes and institutions which govern, run, protect and regulate our activity. For example, from our justice system to groups run by community members - many areas of our lives are influenced by some form of governance. More specifically, governance refers to the way in which the processes, systems and institutions that organise our society are managed, and the way people are included in making decisions about things that affect their lives. Good governance means that institutions are efficient, responsive and accountable and enable societal function and progress.

The idea of governance goes beyond the functions of Government. Our State, Territory and Commonwealth governments undertake many governance activities; however these are only one part of MAP's broader view of governance as an activity that is carried out by many organisations throughout society.

What did Australians say?

Australians wanted governance systems and organisations to be easy to interact with and access. People thought that governance systems and processes needed to be open, honest, unbiased and trusted by society. They wanted these systems to uphold people's rights, allowing them access to justice and providing and supporting laws that protect all Australians.

Governance systems that allow people to have a say in decisions that affect their lives are important. Access to information that supports participation and informed public debate, freedom of media and freedom of expression were also seen as an important part of how our society operates. Responsibility was seen as an important aspect of governance for institutions in carrying out their governance activities appropriately, and for individuals to take opportunities to participate and influence governance processes that affect them.

Main themes of governance

Our recent consultation agreed on five main themes Australians thought were important for progress in the domain of governance and where possible, MAP provides progress indicators for these themes and their elements. As there are many newly emerging areas of interest from the consultation process, we don't have measures for all of these as yet. However, MAP is an evolving product and we will seek to fill data gaps as suitable measures become available.

To see the governance measures included in MAP, click on the themes below to see how Australia is progressing in that area:

- Trust - Australians aspire to institutions and governance processes they can trust and hold to account
- Effective governance - Australians aspire to governance that works well
- Participation - Australians aspire to have the opportunity to have a say in decisions that affect their lives
- Informed public debate - Australians aspire to well-informed and vibrant public debate

- People's rights and responsibilities - Australians aspire to a society where everyone's rights are upheld and their responsibilities fulfilled

This page first published 14 November 2013, last updated 8 May 2014



Trust

Australians aspire to institutions and governance processes they can trust and hold to account

Overall progress? **Overall progress?**

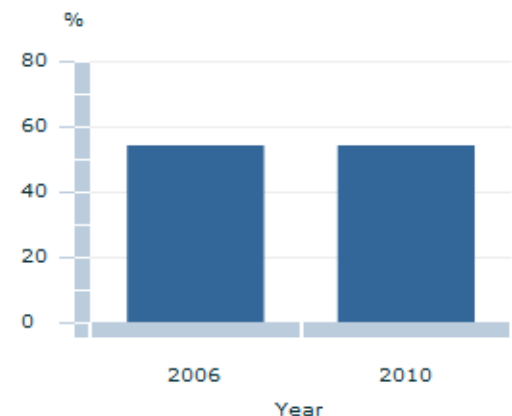
Integrity **Integrity**

Transparency **Transparency**

Accountability **Accountability**

Trust in governance processes and systems **Processes and systems**

Level of generalised trust(a)



Generalised trust

Footnote (a) Proportion of persons that agree or strongly agree that most people can be trusted.

Source ABS General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia, 2006 & 2010 (cat. no. 4159.0)

Footnote(s): (a) Proportion of persons that agree or strongly agree that most people can be trusted.

Source(s): ABS General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia, 2006 & 2010 (cat. no. 4159.0)



Trust has not changed greatly in Australia in recent years

Indicator: Level of generalised trust

Why is this theme important?

Australians told us that governance systems and processes needed to be open, honest, unbiased and trusted by society. This related to government, non-government bodies and with people within communities. People wanted governance processes to be free from corruption, favouritism and conflict of interest. They wanted government and private institutions to behave responsibly and with integrity in support of societal wellbeing. Where governance processes impact on society, people wanted information about this to be transparent to the public. In addition, trust between members of the community was also seen as an essential aspect of the general idea of trust, ensuring communities and societies functioned effectively.

How have we decided things haven't changed greatly?

We have decided that there has been little change in trust in Australian institutions and governance processes in recent years because the level of generalised trust (our headline progress indicator for trust) hasn't moved much.

For trust in Australian institutions and governance processes to improve, we would expect to see an increase in the level of generalised trust, indicating that people in the community were more trusting of one another.

In 2010, 54% of Australians agreed or strongly agreed that most people could be trusted, the same proportion seen four years earlier in 2006.

Why this headline progress indicator?

Being able to trust others in the community is an important part of the aspiration for trust in Australian institutions and governance processes.

The level of generalised trust is considered a good measure of progress for trust in Australian institutions and governance processes because it captures whether people in the community feel that they can trust one another. While there are many personal and circumstantial factors that influence the level of trust people have for one another, governance systems in society are likely to also play a role due to the significant influence they have over many aspects of people's lives. If people feel that governments and private institutions lack integrity and have poor governance, then this is likely, at least in part, to be reflected in generalised levels of trust.

Quality assessment (see key)



This indicator is an indirect measure of the concept of trust in Australian institutions and governance processes as described above (based on Aspirations for our Nation).



The data source is of acceptable quality.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to trust in Australian institutions and governance processes than the level of generalised trust. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the elements of trust in Australian institutions and governance processes have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

A data gap currently exists for integrity

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

A range of possible indicators are being considered for integrity. In order to capture the spirit of this idea in a measure, further development will need to be undertaken. We will continue to explore options for a suitable indicator in the future.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to trust in Australian institutions and governance processes than integrity. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of trust in Australian institutions and governance processes have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

A data gap currently exists for transparency

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

A range of possible indicators are being considered for transparency. In order to capture the spirit of this idea in a measure, further development will need to be undertaken. We will continue to explore options for a suitable indicator in the future.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to trust in Australian institutions and governance processes than transparency. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of trust in Australian institutions and governance processes have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

A data gap currently exists for accountability

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

A range of possible indicators are being considered for accountability. In order to capture the spirit of this idea in a measure, further development will need to be undertaken. We will continue to explore options for a suitable indicator in the future.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to trust in Australian institutions and governance processes than accountability. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of trust in Australian institutions and governance processes have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

Trust in governance processes and systems in Australia has regressed since 1998

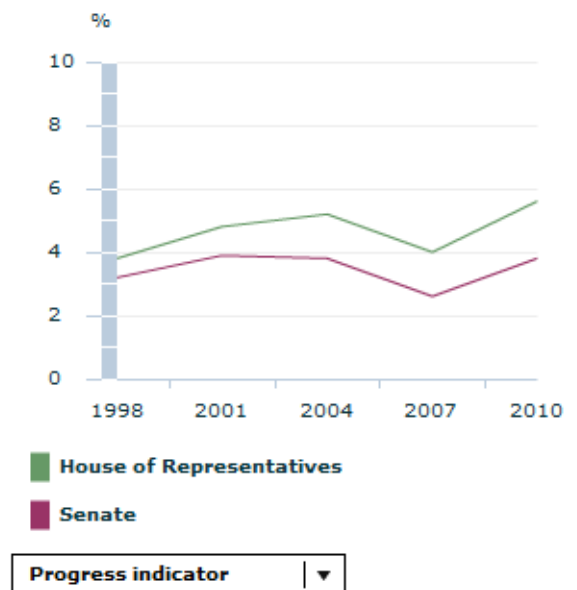
Indicator: Informal votes in Australian federal elections

Why is this element important?

For institutions in society to work most effectively, Australians thought it important that they maintain community trust and support. When governance processes and systems are perceived to lack integrity, operate dishonestly, or function inadequately, people felt this could impact on people's sense of fairness and empowerment, affecting their wellbeing. Trust in governance processes and systems was seen as important because it may encourage public institutions to behave in a manner aligned with the expectations of the community.

Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about trust in Australian institutions and governance processes.

Informal votes in Australian federal elections



Source Australian Electoral Commission (AEC)
2011, Informality (%) House of
Representatives and Senate, viewed 23
September 2013

Source(s): Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) 2011, Informality (%) House of Representatives and Senate, viewed 23 September 2013; Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) 2011, Informality (%) House of Representatives and Senate, viewed 23 September 2013

How have we decided there has been regress?

We have decided that trust in governance processes and systems in Australia has regressed in recent years because informal votes in Australian federal elections (our progress indicator for trust in governance processes and systems) has increased.

Between 1998 and 2010, the proportion of votes cast for the House of Representatives that were informal increased from 3.8% to 5.6%. For the Senate, a more modest increase was seen during this time from 3.2% to 3.8%.

Why this progress indicator?

Individual engagement in federal elections is an important part of the aspiration for trust in Australian institutions and governance processes.

Informal votes in Australian federal elections is considered a good measure of progress for trust in governance processes and systems because it measures the extent to which people cast spoiled ballots in federal elections. A ballot paper is considered informal if it is not marked at all, does not bear an official mark, identifies the individual voter, or the voter has incorrectly filled out the ballot paper. If trust in governance systems in Australia were to be low, then one area where we would anticipate this to be reflected by the community is in a high rate of informal voting at federal elections. This measure intends to capture some of this likely effect.

A limitation of this indicator is that it only measures trust with respect to the federal government and in particular, the political sphere. Trust for other forms of governance such as in councils, state governments, non-profit organisations, the public service and the private sector, are not captured by this indicator. Furthermore, a high rate of informal voting may reflect a range of other unrelated issues. Legitimate voter mistakes, literacy challenges, complicated ballot papers, or political disengagement can all contribute to informal voting. For these and other reasons, this indicator is considered an indirect measure of trust in governance processes and systems.

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is an indirect measure of trust in governance processes and systems.



The data source is of high quality.

Let's break it down!

Long-term trends show that the recent increase in informal voting continues a trend that began in the early 1990s. Trends also demonstrate the significant impact electoral reforms can have on the level of informal voting. This is particularly notable in 1984 where the proportion of votes that were informal for the Senate decreased markedly with the introduction of 'above the line' voting.

Use the drop down menu on the graph to look at other breakdowns of the indicator (graphs are also available on the further info page).

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to trust in Australian institutions and governance processes than trust in governance processes and systems. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of trust in Australian institutions and governance processes have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.



Further info for trust

Need some more info on the trust theme? Hopefully this page can point you in the right direction

Contents

Useful links

Glossary

References

Graph summary

This page contains the following further information for trust:

- Useful links
- Glossary
- References
- Graph summary

USEFUL LINKS

ABS General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia, 2006 & 2010 (cat. no. 4159.0)

Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) 2011, Informality (%) House of Representatives and Senate, viewed 23 September 2013

GLOSSARY

Compulsory voting

Compulsory voting means that every eligible Australian citizen (18 years or older) is required by law to enrol and vote. If a person does not vote and is unable to provide a 'valid and sufficient' reason, a penalty is imposed. Compulsory voting is a distinctive feature of the Australian political culture.

All Australians who are eligible to vote elect people to represent them in the two houses of Parliament – the Senate and the House of Representatives.

REFERENCES

Australian Electoral Commission (AEC), 2013 - Voting

Click on the links below to be taken to a summary of the graphs from the corresponding tab within the trust theme:

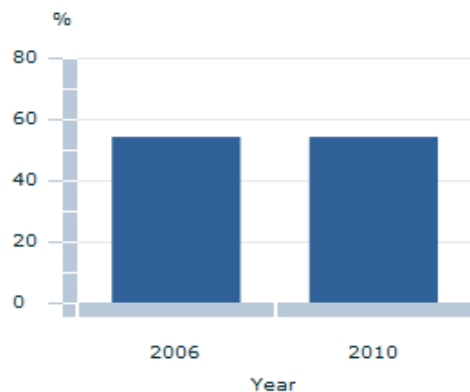
Overall progress?

Trust in governance processes and systems

OVERALL PROGRESS?

Level of generalised trust(a)

Headline progress indicator



Footnote:

(a) Proportion of persons that agree or strongly agree that most people can be trusted.

Source:

ABS General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia, 2006 & 2010 (cat. no. 4159.0)

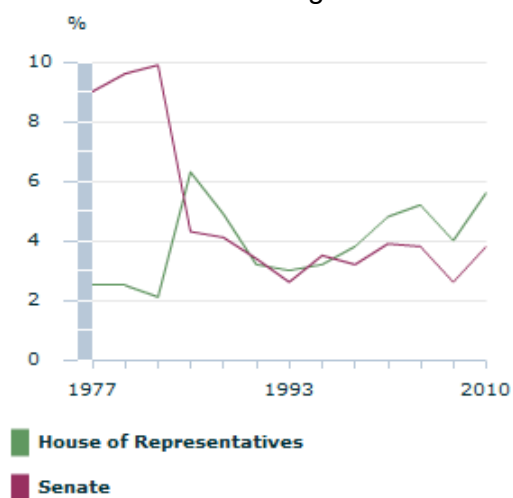
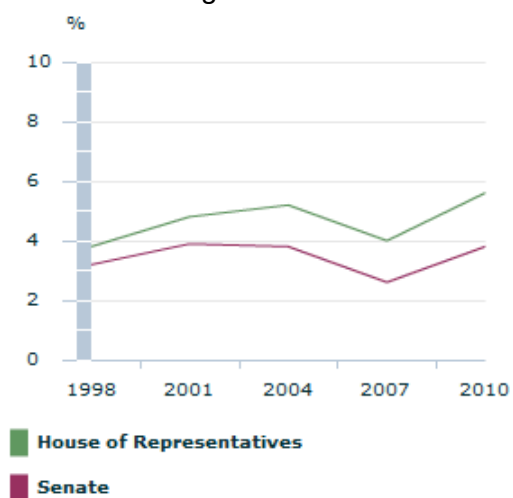
[Back to top](#)

TRUST IN GOVERNANCE PROCESSES AND SYSTEMS

Informal votes in Australian federal elections

Progress indicator

...over the longer term



Source:

Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) 2011, Informality (%) House of Representatives and Senate, viewed 23 September 2013

Source:

Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) 2011, Informality (%) House of Representatives and Senate, viewed 23 September 2013

[Back to top](#)



Effective governance

Australians aspire to governance that works well

Overall progress?**Overall progress?**

Effective governance**Effective**

Ease of interactions**Interactions**

Protection**Protection**

Seamless interactions**Interactions**

Balance between regulation and freedom**Balance**

Resilience**Resilience**



A data gap currently exists for effective governance

Why is this theme important?

Australians told us that good governance and regulation, within both government and non-government sectors, was important to national progress. People felt that good governance is effective and efficient. Many people in the consultation wanted the systems, processes and institutions that govern and regulate our activity, and protect our rights and freedoms, to be easy for people to access and interact with. They also wanted governance to be appropriate and to allow effective outcomes without overburdening people or institutions. People aspired to have their governance systems aligned, working together and adequately funded. They also wanted governance systems, processes and institutions to be strong and yet adaptable to change and to enable Australian society to bounce back from adversity.

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

A range of possible indicators are being considered for assessing effective governance, but the concept is broad and difficult to summarise in any one measure. In order to capture the spirit of this idea in a measure, further development will need to be undertaken. We will continue to explore options for a suitable indicator in the future.

But that is not the whole story...

While there are several elements to this theme of effective governance, each is currently a data gap due to the difficulties in measuring progress in this area. We will continue to explore options for suitable indicators in the future.

A data gap currently exists for effective governance

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

A range of possible indicators are being considered for effective governance. In order to capture the spirit of this idea in a measure, further development will need to be undertaken. We will continue to explore options for a suitable indicator in the future.

But that is not the whole story...

While there are other elements besides effective governance within the theme of effective governance, each is currently a data gap due to the difficulties in measuring progress in this area. We will continue to explore options for suitable indicators in the future.

A data gap currently exists for ease of interactions

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

We propose to use the proportion of people who had problems accessing services sourced from the ABS General Social Survey as a progress indicator for the ease of interactions element in the future, when sufficient data becomes available to assess whether progress has been made.

But that is not the whole story...

While there are other elements besides ease of interactions within the theme of effective governance, each is currently a data gap due to the difficulties in measuring progress in this area. We will continue to explore options for suitable indicators in the future.

A data gap currently exists for protection

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

A range of possible indicators are being considered for protection. In order to capture the spirit of this idea in a measure, further development will need to be undertaken. We will continue to explore options for a suitable indicator in the future.

But that is not the whole story...

While there are other elements besides protection within the theme of effective governance, each is currently a data gap due to the difficulties in measuring progress in this area. We will continue to explore options for suitable indicators in the future.

A data gap currently exists for seamless interactions

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

A range of possible indicators are being considered for seamless interactions. In order to capture the spirit of this idea in a measure, further development will need to be undertaken. We will continue to explore options for a suitable indicator in the future.

But that is not the whole story...

While there are other elements besides seamless interactions within the theme of effective governance, each is currently a data gap due to the difficulties in measuring progress in this area. We will continue to explore options for suitable indicators in the future.

A data gap currently exists for balance between regulation and freedom

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

At the moment we are considering this element to be the second type of data gap listed above, i.e. although the concept is important for progress, it may not lend itself to meaningful measurement. This being the case, while we will continue to consider this area of progress, there is no guarantee that we will have a progress indicator for it in the future.

But that is not the whole story...

While there are other elements besides balance between regulation and freedom within the theme of effective governance, each is currently a data gap due to the difficulties in measuring progress in this area. We will continue to explore options for suitable indicators in the future.

A data gap currently exists for resilience

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

A range of possible indicators are being considered for resilience. In order to capture the spirit of this idea in a measure, further development will need to be undertaken. We will continue to explore options for a suitable indicator in the future.

But that is not the whole story...

While there are other elements besides resilience within the theme of effective governance, each is currently a data gap due to the difficulties in measuring progress in this area. We will continue to explore options for suitable indicators in the future.



Participation

Australians aspire to have the opportunity to have a say in decisions that affect their lives

Overall progress? **Overall progress?**

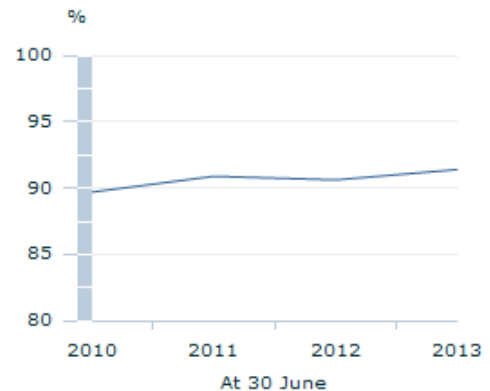
Involvement in decision making **Involvement**

Awareness and understanding **Awareness**

Access and opportunity to contribute to decision making **Access and opportunity**

Taking responsibility **Responsibility**

Eligible Australians enrolled to vote



Eligible Australians

Headline progress indicator

Source Australian Electoral Commission (AEC), National enrolment figures by state/territory, viewed 23 September 2013; Australian Electoral Commission (AEC), National enrolment figures by state/territory, viewed 23 September 2013

Source(s): Australian Electoral Commission (AEC), National enrolment figures by state/territory, viewed 23 September 2013; Australian Electoral Commission (AEC), National enrolment figures by state/territory, viewed 23 September 2013



The opportunity to participate in decision making and governance processes in Australia has progressed in recent years

Indicator: Proportion of eligible Australians enrolled to vote

Why is this theme important?

Australians told us that it is important that everyone has the opportunity to participate in decision-making that affects their lives. People thought that participation was important at all levels of society, from formal interactions, such as with government or business sectors, to community level interactions. Australians said they could participate in and influence how society is managed by attending community groups, talking or writing to politicians, signing petitions, voting in elections, and in many other ways.

Participation in decision-making was also seen as a personal responsibility by Australians. For example, voting in elections was seen as an important activity Australians were required to undertake. For people to become involved in decision-making and governance, they need to be able to access the necessary information and avenues for participation. People discussed the value of participating in genuine consultation, where all peoples' voices are heard, genuinely considered and a response is received. They also thought that timely decision-making undertaken by elected representatives was important and appropriate. Consultation processes were valuable and complementary to these decision-making initiatives.

How have we decided there has been progress?

We have decided that the opportunity to participate in decision making and governance processes in Australia has progressed in the last three years because the proportion of eligible Australians enrolled to vote (our headline progress indicator for participation) has increased.

In 2013, 91% of eligible Australians were enrolled to vote. This is higher than the proportion three years earlier in 2010 which was 90%.

Why this headline progress indicator?

Voter enrolment is an important part of the aspiration for participation in decision making and governance processes.

The proportion of eligible Australians enrolled to vote is considered a good measure of progress for participation in decision making and governance processes because it is a measure of people's participation in electing governments. When the proportion of eligible Australians enrolled to vote is high, it indicates that people in the community are engaged in determining the governments that make decisions that affect them. Voter enrolment in Australia is also heavily influenced by compulsory voting laws which should be accounted for when interpreting this indicator.

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is a partial measure of the concept of participation in decision making and governance processes as described above (based on Aspirations for our Nation).



The data source is of high quality.

Let's break it down!

The proportion of eligible Australians enrolled to vote differs for each state and territory in Australia. The states and territories with the lowest comparative rates of voter enrolment in 2013 included the Northern Territory (81%) and Queensland (88%), while the Australian Capital Territory (96%) has the highest rate.

Use the drop down menu on the graph to look at other breakdowns of the indicator (graphs are also available on the further info page).

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to participation in decision making and governance processes than the proportion of eligible Australians enrolled to vote. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of participation in decision making and governance processes have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

Involvement in decision making in Australia has regressed since 1998

Indicator: Voter turnout at federal elections

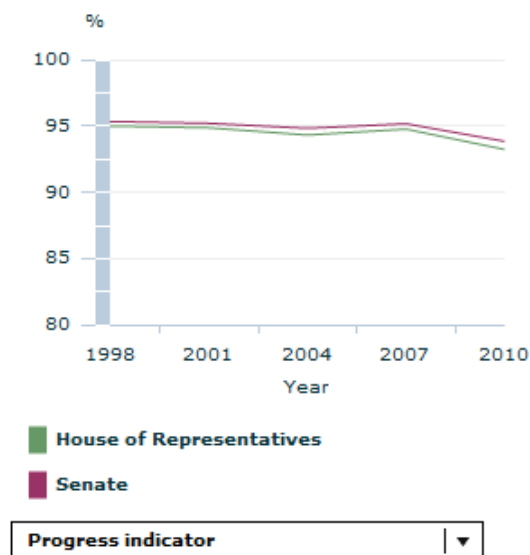
Why is this element important?

Australians thought that involving people in decision making is important because many of the decisions made by governments, businesses, and other institutions in the community affect the lives of all Australians. When decisions made on behalf of the community adequately take into consideration their views, better outcomes can be reached in terms of supporting community wellbeing.

Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about participation in decision making and governance processes.

How have we decided there has been regress?

Voter turnout at federal elections



Source Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) 2012, Who voted in previous referendums and elections, viewed 23 September 2013

Source(s): Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) 2012, Who voted in previous referendums and elections, viewed 23 September 2013; Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) 2012, Who voted in previous referendums and elections, viewed 23 September 2013; Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) 2012, Who voted in previous referendums and elections, viewed 23 September 2013

We have decided that involvement in decision making in Australia has regressed in recent years because voter turnout at federal elections (our progress indicator for involvement in decision making) has decreased.

In 1998, voter turnout for the House of Representatives and the Senate was 95%. Twelve years later in 2010, the rate had declined slightly for both houses to 93% and 94% respectively.

Why this progress indicator?

Voter turnout is an important part of the aspiration for participation in decision making and governance processes.

Voter turnout at federal elections is considered a good measure of progress for involvement in decision making because voting is one of the more significant activities people can undertake to influence the systems that govern them. When voter turnout at federal elections is high, it indicates that people are actively involved in making decisions that affect both themselves and the wider community. The level of voter turnout in Australia is also heavily influenced by compulsory voting laws which should be accounted for when interpreting this indicator.

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is a partial measure of involvement in decision making.



The data source is of high quality.

Let's break it down!

Long-term trends show the impact compulsory voting has had in garnering a high voter turnout to Australian federal elections. Following the introduction of compulsory voting at federal elections in 1924, voter turnout at federal elections for both the House of Representatives and the Senate has consistently remained above 90%.

Use the drop down menu on the graph to look at other breakdowns of the indicator (graphs are also available on the further info page).

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to participation in decision making and governance processes than involvement in decision making. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of participation in decision making and governance processes have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

A data gap currently exists for awareness and understanding

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

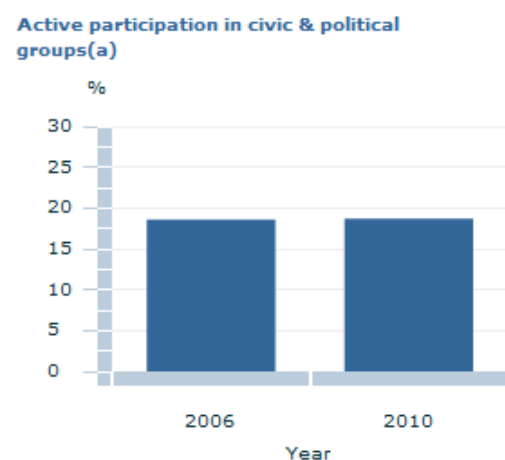
1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

A range of indicators are being considered for awareness and understanding. In order to capture the spirit of this idea in a measure, further development will need to be undertaken. We will continue to explore options for a suitable indicator in the future.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to participation in decision making and governance processes than awareness and understanding. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of participation in decision making and governance processes have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.



■ Active participation

Progress indicator ▼

Footnote (a) Proportion of persons aged 18 years and over that have actively participated in a civic or political group(s) in the last 12 months.

Source ABS General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia, 2006 & 2010 (cat. no. 4159.0)

Footnote(s): (a) Proportion of persons aged 18 years and over that have actively participated in a civic or political group(s) in the last 12 months.; ^ Estimates for the 18-24, 25-34, 65-74 and 75-84 year age groups have a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution. * Estimate for the 85 years or more age group has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution. (a) Proportion of persons aged 18 years and over that have actively participated in a civic or political group(s) in the last 12 months.

Source(s): ABS General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia, 2006 & 2010 (cat. no. 4159.0); ABS General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia, 2006 & 2010 (cat. no. 4159.0)

Access to the opportunity to contribute to decision making in Australia has not changed greatly in recent years

Indicator: Proportion of persons active in civic or political groups

Why is this element important?

Australians thought that having opportunities to influence how society is run is important to national progress as it ensures that decisions made that impact the community best reflect the communities' views. They also thought that when opportunities to contribute to decision making are accessible by all members of the community, individual wellbeing is enhanced by empowering and enfranchising people. Moreover, by consulting and engaging the views of all members in the community when making decisions, the ownership of these decisions is shared. Participants in the consultation felt that this would improve cohesion and the wellbeing of the community.

Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about participation in decision making and governance processes.

How have we decided things haven't changed greatly?

We have decided that there has been little change in access to the opportunity to contribute to decision making in Australia in recent years because active participation in civic and political groups (our progress indicator for access to opportunity to contribute to decision making) hasn't moved much.

For there to be progress, we would expect to see an increase in the proportion of persons active in civic or political groups.

In both 2006 and 2010, 19% of people aged 18 years and over participated actively in a civic or political group.

Why this progress indicator?

Being involved in civic or political groups is an important part of the aspiration for participation in decision making and governance processes.

Active participation in civic and political groups is considered a good measure of progress for access to the opportunity to contribute to decision making because it captures whether people are accessing the opportunity to determine how society is managed. When participation in civic or political groups is high, it indicates that there are sufficient opportunities for people to get involved and contribute to organisations that affect social governance systems. However, if active participation in civic or political groups is low this suggests there are few opportunities to get involved.

While the measure assesses participation in civic and political groups, it does not measure the quality of this participation or the specific objectives of the groups involved. Furthermore, by measuring participation, the indicator does not directly assess whether opportunities to participate have improved or gotten worse over time.

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is a partial measure of access to the opportunity to contribute to decision making.



The data source is of high quality.

Let's break it down!

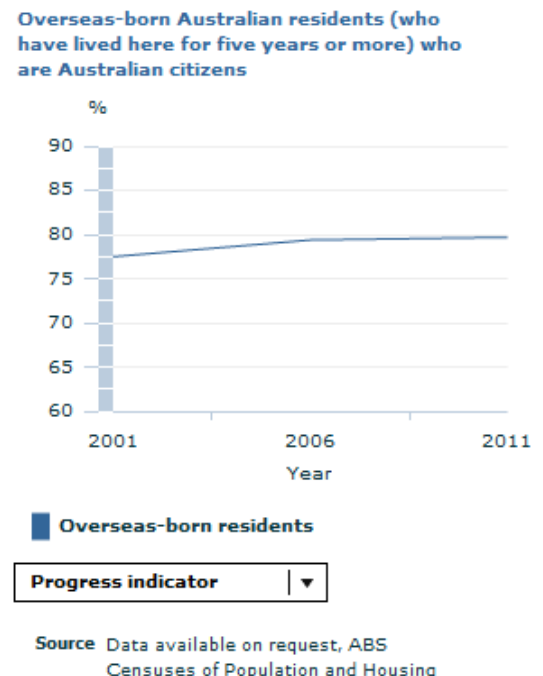
In 2010, persons aged 55-64 years were most likely to participate actively in a civic or political group (24%), while older persons (aged 75 years and over) and younger persons (aged 18-24 years) were those least likely to participate (17% and 11% respectively).

Use the drop down menu on the graph to look at other breakdowns of the indicator (graphs are also available on the further info page).

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to participation in decision making and governance processes than access to the opportunity to contribute to decision making. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of participation in decision making and governance processes have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.



Source(s): Data available on request, ABS Censuses of Population and Housing; Data available on request, ABS Censuses of Population and Housing

Taking responsibility in Australia has progressed over the last decade

Indicator: Proportion of overseas-born Australian residents (who have lived here for five years or more) who are Australian citizens

Why is this element important?

In addition to granting individuals rights to participate and contribute directly towards systems governing society, Australians told us that it is important that people accept and observe the responsibilities that follow these systems. In Australia, civic responsibilities (such as obeying the law, voting in elections, or serving on a jury) as well as social responsibilities (such as treating people fairly and acting with honesty) are all important in ensuring a free and democratic society that supports wellbeing. People thought it was important to national progress that members of the community fulfil their responsibilities to the larger democratic process and feel empowered to undertake civic responsibilities.

Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about participation in decision making and governance processes.

How have we decided there has been progress?

We have decided that taking responsibility in Australia has progressed over the decade because the proportion of overseas-born Australian residents (who have lived here for five years or more) who are Australian citizens (our progress indicator for taking responsibility) has increased.

In the ten years to 2011, the proportion of overseas-born Australian residents (who have lived here for five years or more) who are Australian citizens has continued to rise from 77.5% in 2001, to 80% in 2011.

Why this progress indicator?

Uptake of Australian citizenship is an important part of the aspiration for participation in decision making and governance processes.

The proportion of overseas-born Australian residents (who have lived here for five years or more) who are Australian citizens is considered a good measure of progress for taking responsibility because it indicates whether new migrants to Australia are adopting the rights and responsibilities of being an Australian citizen. In order to access a number of rights beyond those offered to permanent residents (for example, the right to vote or to stand for public office), it is necessary that new migrants to Australia adopt Australian citizenship. In this context, an increase in the uptake of Australian citizenship can be interpreted, at least indirectly, as an indication of people's willingness to take responsibility for being an active participant in societal decision making.

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is an indirect measure of taking responsibility.



The data source is of high quality.

Let's break it down!

Long-term trends show that the proportion of overseas-born Australian residents (who have lived here for five years or more) who are Australian citizens is steadily rising.

Use the drop down menu on the graph to look at other breakdowns of the indicator (graphs are also available on the further info page).

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to participation in decision making and governance processes than taking responsibility. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of participation in decision making and governance processes have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.



Further info for participation

Need some more info on the participation theme? Hopefully this page can point you in the right direction

Contents

Useful links

Glossary

References

Graph summary

This page contains the following further information for participation:

- Useful links
- Glossary
- References
- Graph summary

USEFUL LINKS

ABS General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia, 2006 & 2010 (cat. no. 4159.0)

Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) 2012, Who voted in previous referendums and elections

Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) 2012, National enrolment figures 2010 - 2013

GLOSSARY

Compulsory voting

Compulsory voting means that every eligible Australian citizen (18 years or older) is required by law to enrol and vote. If a person does not vote and is unable to provide a 'valid and sufficient' reason, a penalty is imposed. Compulsory voting is a distinctive feature of the Australian political culture.

All Australians who are eligible to vote elect people to represent them in the two houses of Parliament – the Senate and the House of Representatives.

REFERENCES

ABS Australian Censuses of Population and Housing

Click on the links below to be taken to a summary of the graphs from the corresponding tab within the participation theme:

Overall progress?

Involvement in decision making

Access and opportunity

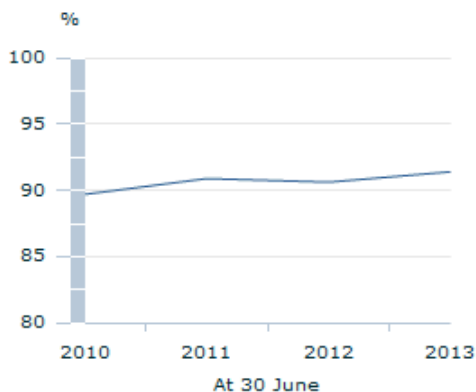
Taking responsibility

OVERALL PROGRESS?

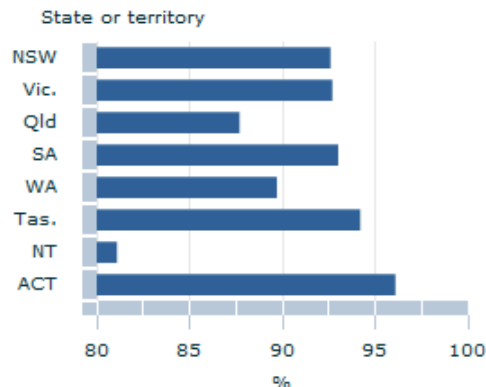
Eligible Australians enrolled to vote

Headline progress indicator

...by state and territory, 2013



Source:
Australian Electoral Commission (AEC), National enrolment figures by state/territory, viewed 23 September 2013



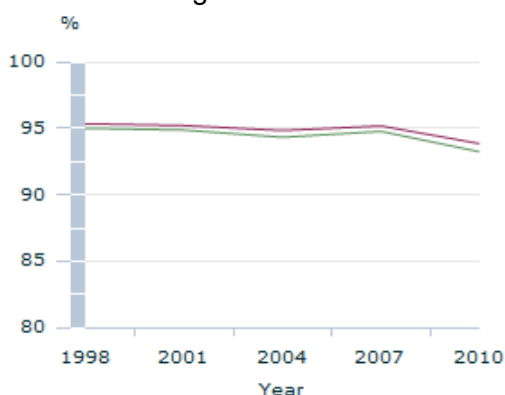
Source:
Australian Electoral Commission (AEC), National enrolment figures by state/territory, viewed 23 September 2013

[Back to top](#)

INVOLVEMENT IN DECISION MAKING

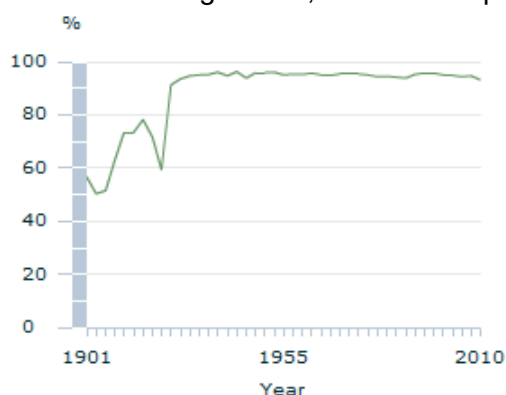
Voter turnout at federal elections

Progress indicator



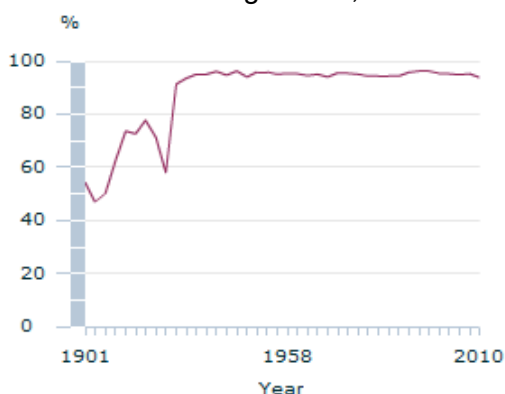
Source:
Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) 2012, Who voted in previous referendums and elections, viewed 23 September 2013

...over the longer term, House of Reps



Source:
Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) 2012, Who voted in previous referendums and elections, viewed 23 September 2013

...over the longer term, Senate



Source:
Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) 2012, Who voted in previous referendums and elections, viewed 23 September 2013

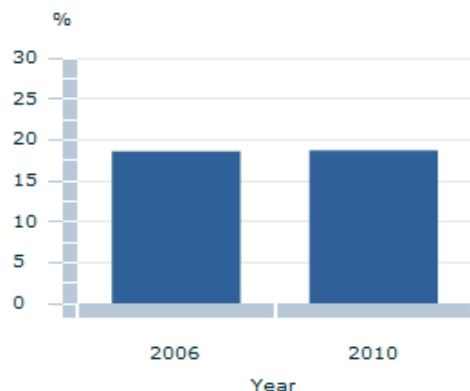
[Back to top](#)

ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITY

Active participation in civic & political groups(a)

Progress indicator

...by age, 2010

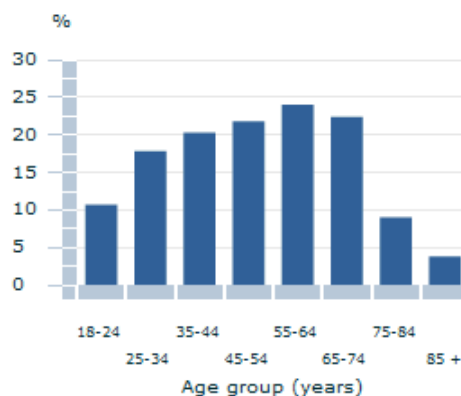


Footnote:

(a) Proportion of persons aged 18 years and over that have actively participated in a civic or political group(s) in the last 12 months.

Source:

ABS General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia, 2006 & 2010 (cat. no. 4159.0)



Footnote:

^ Estimates for the 18-24, 25-34, 65-74 and 75-84 year age groups have a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution.

* Estimate for the 85 years or more age group has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution.

(a) Proportion of persons aged 18 years and over that have actively participated in a civic or political group(s) in the last 12 months.

Source:

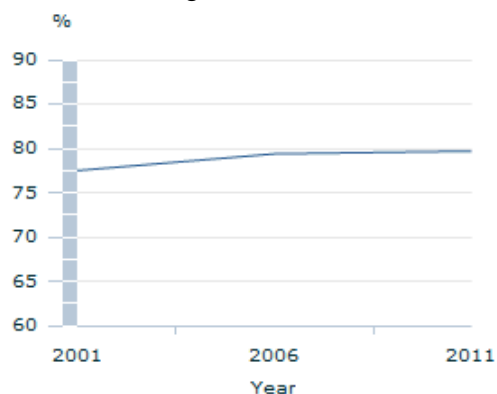
ABS General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia, 2006 & 2010 (cat. no. 4159.0)

[Back to top](#)

TAKING RESPONSIBILITY

Overseas-born Australian residents (who have lived here for five years or more) who are Australian citizens

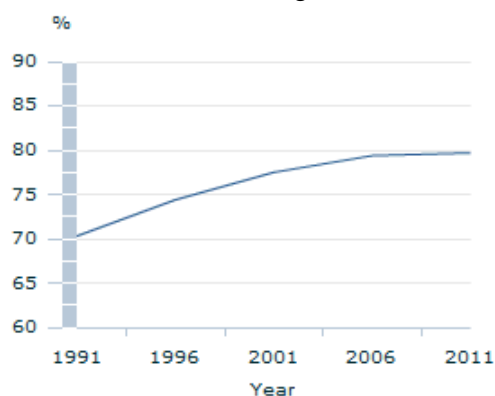
Progress indicator



Source:

Data available on request, ABS Censuses of Population and Housing

...over the longer term



Source:

Data available on request, ABS Censuses of Population and Housing

[Back to top](#)



Informed public debate

Australians aspire to well-informed and vibrant public debate

Overall progress?**Overall progress?**

Open and informed debate**Open and informed**

Freedom to pursue and access truth/facts**Freedom**

A free media**Free media**

Effective regulation**Regulation**



A data gap currently exists for informed public debate

Why is this theme important?

Australians told us that public debate should allow a diversity of voices and views to be heard and considered, and that information should be reported accurately, clearly and not be biased by conflicts of interest. They saw public debate as occurring in many places, for example, through the media and electronic information sharing channels, as well as parliamentary and political debating platforms. For this to happen effectively, they thought that these platforms should be effectively regulated whilst allowing people the freedom to access information.

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

A range of possible indicators are being considered for assessing informed public debate, but the concept is broad and difficult to summarise in any one measure. In order to capture the spirit of this idea in a measure, further development will need to be undertaken. We will continue to explore options for a suitable indicator in the future.

But that is not the whole story...

While there are several elements to this theme of informed public debate, each is currently a data gap due to the difficulties in measuring progress in this area. We will continue to explore options for suitable indicators in the future.

A data gap currently exists for open and informed debate

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

A range of possible indicators are being considered for open and informed debate. In order to capture the spirit of this idea in a measure, further development will need to be undertaken. We will continue to explore options for a suitable indicator in the future.

But that is not the whole story...

While there are other elements besides open and informed debate within the theme of informed public debate, each is currently a data gap due to the difficulties in measuring progress in this area. We will continue to explore options for suitable indicators in the future.

A data gap currently exists for freedom to pursue and access truth/facts

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

A range of possible indicators are being considered for freedom to pursue and access truth/facts. In order to capture the spirit of this idea in a measure, further development will need to be undertaken. We will continue to explore options for a suitable indicator in the future.

But that is not the whole story...

While there are other elements besides freedom to pursue and access truth/facts within the theme of informed public debate, each is currently a data gap due to the difficulties in measuring progress in this area. We will continue to explore options for suitable indicators in the future.

A data gap currently exists for a free media

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

At the moment we are considering this element to be the second type of data gap listed above, i.e. although the concept is important for progress, it may not lend itself to meaningful measurement. This being the case, while we will continue to consider this area of progress, there is no guarantee that we will have a progress indicator for it in the future.

But that is not the whole story...

While there are other elements besides a free media within the theme of informed public debate, each is currently a data gap due to the difficulties in measuring progress in this area. We will continue to explore options for suitable indicators in the future.

A data gap currently exists for effective regulation

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

A range of possible indicators are being considered for effective regulation. In order to capture the spirit of this idea in a measure, further development will need to be undertaken. We will continue to explore options for a suitable indicator in the future.

But that is not the whole story...

While there are other elements besides effective regulation within the theme of informed public debate, each is currently a data gap due to the difficulties in measuring progress in this area. We will continue to explore options for suitable indicators in the future.



People's rights and responsibilities

Australians aspire to a society where everyone's rights are upheld and their responsibilities fulfilled

Overall progress?**Overall progress?**

Rights and responsibilities being upheld**Rights and responsibilities**

National laws and standards**Laws**

Access to justice**Justice**

Freedom of expression**Freedom**

International conventions and laws**International**



A data gap currently exists for people's rights and responsibilities

Why is this theme important?

Australians told us that their rights and responsibilities, as defined and protected by national laws, were important. Australians also thought that international human rights conventions were important and relevant. Many people in the consultation aspired to have their rights upheld by Australian governance systems, and wanted justice systems and processes to be fair and accessible to all Australians. They saw this as a reciprocal relationship, with everyone having the responsibility to abide by Australia's laws. People in the consultation also valued Australia's democratic system of representational government as a means of ensuring rights and responsibilities are upheld and enable participation.

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

We consider this theme to be the second type of data gap listed above, i.e. although the concept is important for progress, it may not lend itself to meaningful measurement. This being the case, while we will continue to consider this area of progress, there is no guarantee that we will have a progress indicator for it in the future.

But that is not the whole story...

Look through the other tabs on this page to see where we have been able to track progress for the aspiration of people's rights and responsibilities.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

A data gap currently exists for rights and responsibilities being upheld

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

We consider this element to be the second type of data gap listed above, i.e. although the concept is important for progress, it may not lend itself to meaningful measurement. We will continue to consider this area of progress, to explore possible ways to effectively measure progress against these concepts.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to people's rights and responsibilities than rights and responsibilities being upheld. Look

through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of people's rights and responsibilities have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

A data gap currently exists for national laws and standards

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

We consider this element to be the second type of data gap listed above, i.e. although the concept is important for progress, it may not lend itself to meaningful measurement. We will continue to consider this area of progress, to explore possible ways to effectively measure progress against these concepts.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to people's rights and responsibilities than national laws and standards. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of people's rights and responsibilities have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

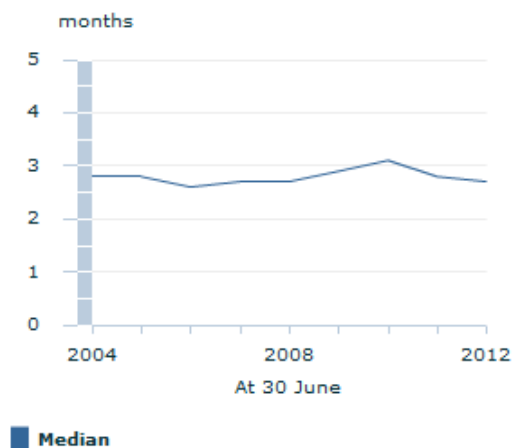
Access to justice in Australia has not changed greatly since 2004

Indicator: Time on remand for unsentenced prisoners

Why is this element important?

Access to justice was seen by Australians as an important aspect of progress because there is a strong desire in the community for justice systems and processes to be fair and accessible to all Australians. Desire for fair and accessible justice not only refers to aspects of Australia's criminal justice system, but also extends to other areas of law that people encounter including civil law and family law. Moreover, justice can be thought of more broadly within the community (natural justice for example). Access to justice is therefore important due to the significant impact it has in governing many aspects of people's lives.

Median months on remand for unsentenced prisoners



Source ABS Prisoners in Australia, 2004-2012 (cat. no. 4517.0)

Source(s): ABS Prisoners in Australia, 2004-2012 (cat. no. 4517.0)

Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about people's rights and responsibilities.

How have we decided things haven't changed greatly?

We have decided that there has been little change in access to justice in Australia since 2004 because time on remand for unsentenced prisoners (our progress indicator for access to justice) hasn't moved much.

For progress, we would expect to see a decrease in the length of time unsentenced prisoners remain on remand.

At 30 June 2012, the median number of months on remand for unsentenced prisoners was 2.7 months.

This was close to the median 8 years earlier in 2004 (of 2.8 months).

Why this progress indicator?

Time spent on remand is an important part of the aspiration for people's rights and responsibilities.

Time on remand for unsentenced prisoners is considered a good measure of progress for access to justice because it provides an annual snapshot, as at the National Prisoner Census date, of the length of time that suspects of crime have been held in custody awaiting the outcome of their court hearing. The length of time spent on remand is an important aspect of this element because a delay in a case being finalised before a court, delays both defendants and victims of crime from reaching a just outcome; whether this be through a conviction, acquittal, or some other legal outcome. Minimising time spent on remand is also an important aspect of a fair justice system for suspects who are subsequently acquitted, or who receive a non-custodial sentence.

A notable limitation of this indicator is that it only covers those offenders who are remanded in custody whilst awaiting trial. Those released on bail into the community are excluded from this indicator. It also only covers a relatively small area of procedural justice, that is as it relates to criminal proceedings. Procedures in other areas of law, for example, family law, civil law and commercial law, are not captured in this indicator. Moreover, other areas of life where justice is significant (such as a sense of natural justice in the workplace, or broader areas of distributive justice) are also not captured by this or other similar indicators.

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is a partial measure of access to justice.



The data source is of high quality.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to people's rights and responsibilities than access to justice. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of people's rights and responsibilities have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

Freedom of expression in Australia has not changed greatly in recent years

Indicator: Proportion of people that feel they are able to have a say within the community on important issues

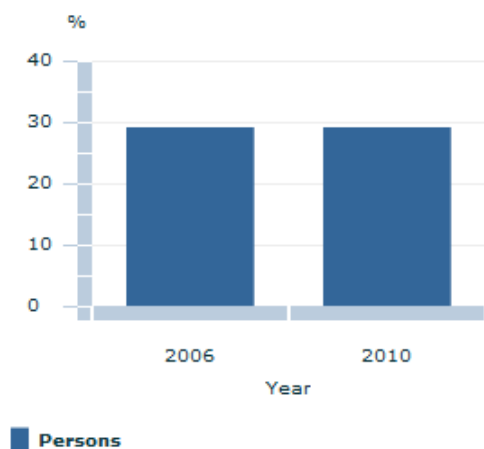
Why is this element important?

Australians told us that freedom to express their views was an important right which supports good governance and a healthy society. This

Source(s): ABS General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia, 2006 & 2010 (cat. no. 4159.0)

meant that all members of society should be free to share and discuss ideas and issues without fear of unfair treatment. Australians also recognised the inherent responsibility this right entailed. In particular,

People that feel they are able to have a say within community on important issues



Source ABS General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia, 2006 & 2010 (cat. no. 4159.0)

the right to express ideas freely, needs to be balanced with the need to treat others fairly and respect the sensibilities of others.

Go to the overall progress tab and further info page for more information about people's rights and responsibilities.

How have we decided things haven't changed greatly?

We have decided that there has been little change in freedom of expression in Australia in recent years because the proportion of people that feel they are able to have a say within the community on important issues (our progress indicator for freedom of expression) hasn't moved much.

For there to be progress in freedom of expression we would expect to see an increase in this indicator.

In 2006 and 2010, the proportion of people aged 18 years and over that felt they were able to have a say within community on important issues all or most of the time remained the same at 29%.

Why this progress indicator?

Being able to express one's views is an important part of the aspiration for people's rights and responsibilities.

The proportion of people that feel they are able to have a say within the community on important issues all or most of the time is considered a good measure of progress for freedom of expression because it captures whether people feel empowered and able to share their views with others in the community. An increase in the proportion would indicate an increased feeling of freedom of expression in the community.

Quality assessment (see [key](#))



This indicator is a partial measure of freedom of expression.



The data source is of high quality.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to people's rights and responsibilities than freedom of expression. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of people's rights and responsibilities have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

A data gap currently exists for international conventions and laws

In MAP there are several types of data gaps where:

1. the concept is not yet developed enough to measure;
2. the concept is important for progress but may not lend itself to meaningful measurement;
3. there is no data of sufficient quality to inform on progress; or
4. there is only one data point, so a progress assessment cannot be made.

We consider this element to be the second type of data gap listed above, i.e. although the concept is important for progress, it may not lend itself to meaningful measurement. We will continue to consider this area of progress, to explore possible ways to effectively measure progress against this concept.

But that is not the whole story...

There is more to people's rights and responsibilities than international conventions and laws. Look through the other tabs on this page to see if the other elements of people's rights and responsibilities have progressed.

Check out our further info page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

This page first published 14 November 2013, last updated 8 May 2014



Further info for people's rights and responsibilities

Need some more info on the people's rights and responsibilities theme? Hopefully this page can point you in the right direction

Contents

Useful links

Glossary

References

Graph summary

This page contains the following further information for people's rights and responsibilities:

- Useful links
- Glossary
- References
- Graph summary

USEFUL LINKS

ABS Prisoners in Australia, 2012 (cat. no. 4517.0)

ABS Corrective Services, Australia, June Quarter 2013 - Updated quarterly (cat. no. 4512.0)

ABS General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia, 2006 (cat. no. 4159.0)

ABS General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia, 2010 (cat. no. 4159.0)

GLOSSARY

Mean/Median sentence and time on remand

Calculations of mean and median sentence lengths and time on remand are affected by the reference period used. For the Prisoner Census, information relates to the characteristics of prisoners at a point in time (the night of 30 June), rather than the total prisoner population during the year. During a year, a large proportion of prisoners who go through the prison system serve short sentences (i.e. less than a year) or are on remand for shorter periods of time, while at any point in time the majority tend to be prisoners serving longer sentences or who have been on remand for long periods of time. The impact of this is that when the total population of prisoners during a year is considered, the large number of short sentences and short periods of time on remand will result in lower mean and median sentence length and time on remand values compared with means and medians calculated from point in time data.

There are no references for this theme

Click on the links below to be taken to a summary of the graphs from the corresponding tab within the peoples' rights and responsibilities theme:

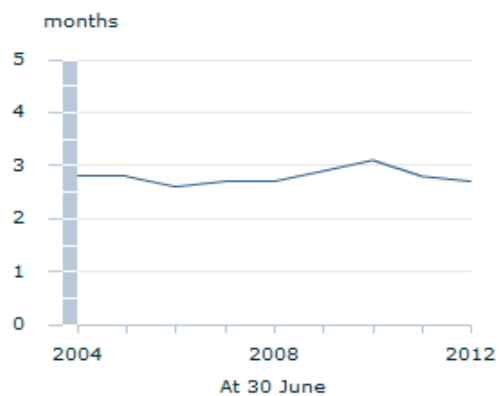
Access to justice

Freedom of expression

ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Median months on remand for unsentenced prisoners

Progress indicator



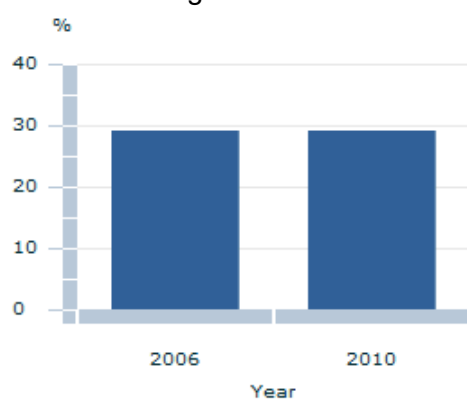
Source:
ABS Prisoners in Australia, 2004-2012 (cat. no. 4517.0)

[Back to top](#)

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

People that feel they are able to have a say within community on important issues

Progress indicator



Source:
ABS General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia, 2006 & 2010
(cat. no. 4159.0)

[Back to top](#)

This page first published 14 November 2013, last updated 8 May 2014



Population

Who lives in Australia? Context for measuring progress

Population and Progress **Population**

Growth **Growth**

Population Composition and Aging **Age and sex**

Population Distribution **Distribution**

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population **Aboriginal**

Migrants **Migrants**

Further info **Further info**

Population and Progress

The characteristics of Australia's population (such as its size and composition) influence, and in turn are influenced by, many aspects of progress. Population factors such as births and migration result from individual and government choices, made in a social and economic context.

This commentary provides information about the Australian population, to provide a context for interpreting and analysing Australia's progress. Some examples of the links between population change and dimensions of progress are outlined below, with details of Australia's changing population available on the following tabs.



Society

Changes in patterns of mortality, fertility and migration lead to changes in the age distribution of the population. This in turn contributes to changes in the demand for health and other services. As an example, the current aging of the population partly reflects an increase in life expectancy, whilst simultaneously contributing to an increasing demand for aged care services.



Economy

The population's geographic and age distribution, as well as migration patterns, influence the labour market. In turn, changes in the labour market can influence the geographic distribution of the population, by encouraging people to move to where they can find employment.



Environment

Where people live also has important effects on the environment. The concentration of people in the coastal areas of south-eastern Australia has resulted in relatively high rates of land clearing for urban development, and increased demand for water, sewerage facilities and landfill sites. This urban expansion tends to occur in Australia's more fertile areas leaving less land available for preservation or agriculture.



Governance

Australia's democratic system of government is directly linked to population, as the size and distribution of the population are determined to ensure equal representation in the House of Representatives. As the population changes, parliamentary boundaries are redrawn, affecting the number of seats allocated to each Australian state and territory.

The idea of governance goes beyond the functions of government to include broader participation in decision making by Australians, as well as such things as informed public debate and people's rights and responsibilities. The size, distribution and composition of the Australian populations underpins all these functions.

Population size and progress

The relationship between population size and progress is a contentious issue amongst Australians. Some Australians believe the population should grow quickly to reach substantially higher levels by the end of this century. These people point to the economic and social benefits of a larger and faster growing population, including increasing and maintaining Australia's national security (Sheridan, 2010).

Other Australians believe that a large population would inhibit progress, as our environment cannot sustain a significantly larger population with a resultant higher level of consumption (Sustainable Population Australia, 2010).

There are strong arguments and counter-arguments on both sides of the debate, which is made more complex when geographic distribution of Australia's population, and compositional factors such as age and sex are considered, and so population size cannot be used as an objective measure of progress.

Historical population growth

At June 2012, Australia's resident population was estimated at 22.7 million people. The population has increased by almost 19 million since Federation in 1901, and by just over 3 million since 2002.

The annual population growth rate was 1.7% for the year ending June 2012. This was down from 2.1% in June 2009, which was the highest growth in over 30 years. Historically, the lowest growth rates have been during World War I (-0.9 in 1916 and 0.0% in 1917), and during the Great Depression and World War II (0.7% to 1.1% during 1930 - 1946). The highest historical growth rates were immediately before and after World War I (3.7% in 1912, 3.6% in 1913, and 3.3% in 1919), and after World War II (3.4% in 1950 and 2.7% in the 1961 'Baby Boom').

Components of population growth

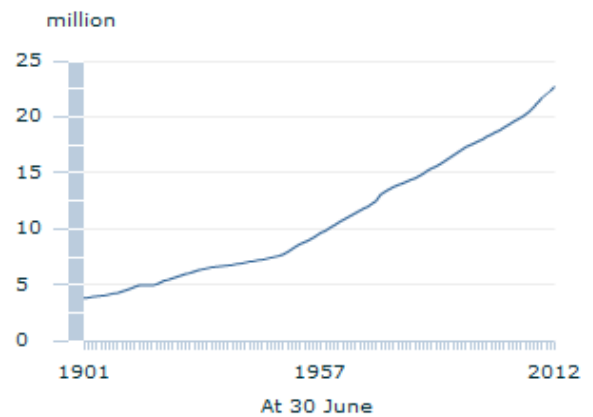
Population growth at the Australia level is made up of two components - natural increase (the difference between births and deaths) and net overseas migration.

Natural increase

From 1901 to 2012, Australia's death rate has more than halved, from 12.2 to 5.9 deaths per 100,000 population (ABS, 2013a; ABS, 2008). While this trend has some influence on Australia's natural increase, fluctuations in fertility rates are another significant factor affecting natural increase.

The total fertility rate was around 3.1 children per woman in 1921. This dropped to 2.1 during the

Australia's population



Estimated resident population

Estimated resident population ▼

Source ABS Australian Demographic Statistics December 2012 (cat no. 3101.0); ABS Australian Historical Population Statistics (cat. no. 3105.0.65.001)

Footnote(s): ;;(a) Total fertility rate represents the number of children a female would bear during her lifetime if she experienced current age-specific fertility rates at each age of her reproductive life. See Glossary. ;(a) Estimates for September quarter 2006 onwards use an improved methodology. Caution should be exercised when comparing estimates over time.

Source(s): ABS Australian Demographic Statistics December 2012 (cat no. 3101.0); ABS Australian Historical Population Statistics (cat. no. 3105.0.65.001) ; ABS Australian Demographic Statistics December 2012 (cat no. 3101.0); ABS Australian Historical Population Statistics (cat. no. 3105.0.65.001) ; ABS Australian Demographic Statistics December 2012 (cat no. 3101.0); ABS Australian Historical Population Statistics (cat. no. 3105.0.65.001) ; ABS Australian Demographic Statistics December 2012 (cat no. 3101.0); ABS Australian Historical Population Statistics (cat. no. 3105.0.65.001)

Great Depression, and then rose again to the highest level (3.5) during the 'Baby Boom' in 1961. Fertility rates declined steeply to 1.9 in 1981, and has remained around that level since (the rate is currently 1.9, up from a low of 1.7 in 2007). This is below the national replacement level of 2.1 births per woman. Fertility rates are affected by social factors such as gender role expectations and value of women's choice in reproduction, as well as economic factors which may encourage female workforce participation (OECD, 2003).

This changing social and economic landscape has additionally resulted in many women delaying motherhood until later in life. The median age of women giving birth increased from a low of 25.4 years in 1971, to 30.6 years in 2011 (ABS, 2012a; ABS, 2008).

Net Overseas Migration

Overseas migration plays an important role in Australia's continuing population growth. Over the past decade, the contribution of net overseas migration (NOM) to Australia's annual population growth has fluctuated between 46% and 66%, contributing 59% in the year ending June 2012.

NOM levels vary from year to year, being influenced by Australian immigration policy as well as by political, economic and social conditions both in Australia and internationally. NOM grew from 110,600 people in the year ending June 2002 to a high of 299,900 people in the year ending June 2009, and down to 219,000 in 2012 (ABS, 2013a; ABS, 2008).

Net Interstate Migration

At the state and territory level, population growth is additionally influenced by net interstate migration (NIM). Over the past decade, Queensland has consistently recorded an annual NIM gain from the rest of the country. The last decade's average annual gain for Queensland was 21,100 people. New South Wales and South Australia have consistently recorded NIM losses over the past decade, with average annual NIM of -22,300 and -3,000 respectively. Western Australia had the highest percentage gain for NIM in 2011-2012, at 0.47%. (ABS, 2013a).

Future population growth

The ABS produces a range of population projections, modelling how Australia's population would change over a 50 year period if fertility, migration and life expectancy rates were to continue in line with current trends, or if these rates were to increase or decrease. Projections based on the 2011 Census will become available in November 2013, and will be available here: <https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/3222.0>. Of particular interest in the next projections will be not only how the size of Australia might change by 2061, but also how the age profile might change.

Age Composition

The age structure of Australia's population has changed significantly over the last century. A decline in fertility rates, and increases in life expectancy have seen the median age rise from 22.5 years in 1901 to 37.3 years in 2012.

Children under 15 years made up 35.1% of the population in 1901, compared with 18.9% in 2012. Conversely, the proportion of over 65 year olds in the population has increased from 4.0% in 1901 to 14.2% in 2012. A similar pattern was seen for those aged 85 years and over - rising from 0.1% in 1901 to 1.9% in 2012.

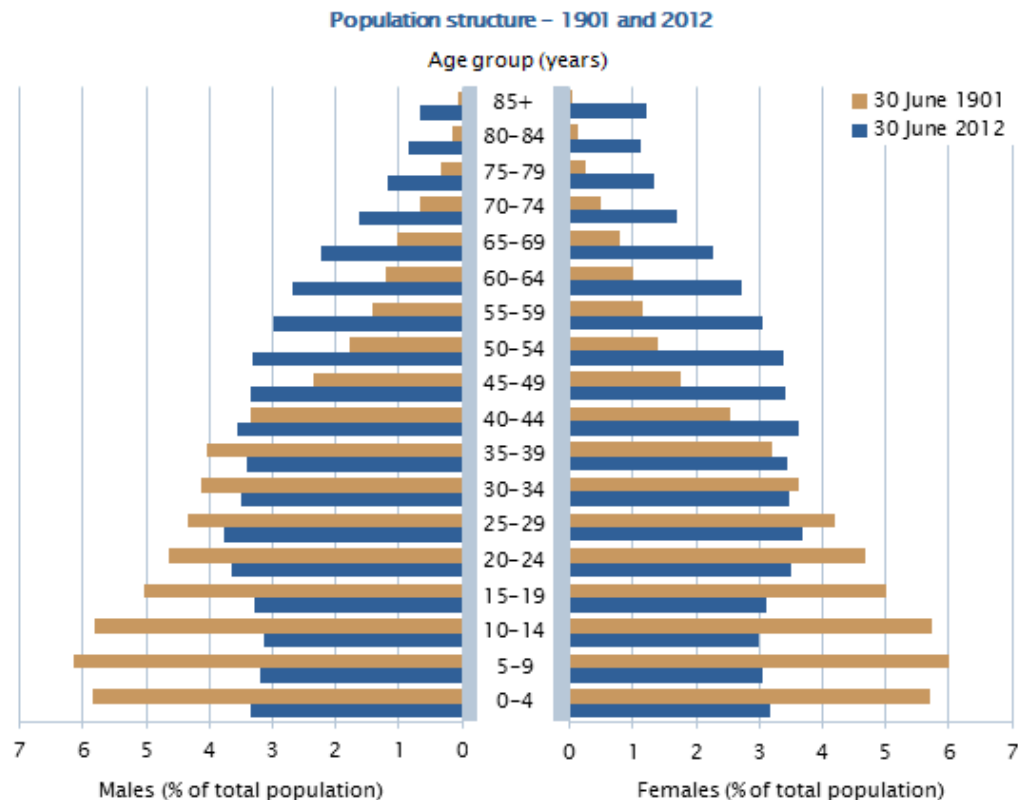
Consequently, the ratio of children (0 - 14 years) to 'working age' population (15 - 64 years) has decreased over this period from 58 children per 100 working age adults to 28 children. Conversely, the ratio of older people (over age 65) to working age has increased from 7 older people per 100 working adults, to 21 older people. This results in a decrease in the overall dependency ratio, from 64 to 49 people outside the 'working age' for every 100 inside it (ABS, 2008; ABS, 2013a).

Sex Composition

The ratio between men and women has also changed over time. In 1901 there were 110 males for every 100 females (in part due to the relatively high proportion of Australian immigrants who were male) (ABS, 2008).

In June 2012, there were slightly fewer males than females in Australia (99 males for every 100 females). However, this sex ratio differs by age. The sex ratio at birth is approximately 106 males per 100 females (ABS, 2012a). Higher male mortality rates result in the ratio being about even for the 15-74 years age group, and the ratio decreases markedly above the age of 75 years (73 males per 100 females) (ABS, 2013a).

Net overseas migration can also influence the sex ratio; in 2011-12 the sex ratio (males per 100 females) of people arriving in Australia was 94:100 for 15-29 year olds, compared to 122:100 for 35-49 year olds (ABS, 2012c).



For a more detailed view of the changing age and sex structure of the Australian population, check out the ABS animated population pyramid.

Population Density

For every square kilometre of land in Australia there are only, on average, around three Australians. However, this statistic hides the fact that Australia is a highly urbanised country. Most of the Australian population is concentrated in coastal regions particularly in the south east and, to a lesser extent, the south west of the continent. At Federation, just over one-third of the population lived in capital cities (36%). This proportion increased steadily to reach almost two thirds (65%) by the 1970s, and has remained relatively stable since (66% in 2012).

Remoteness Areas

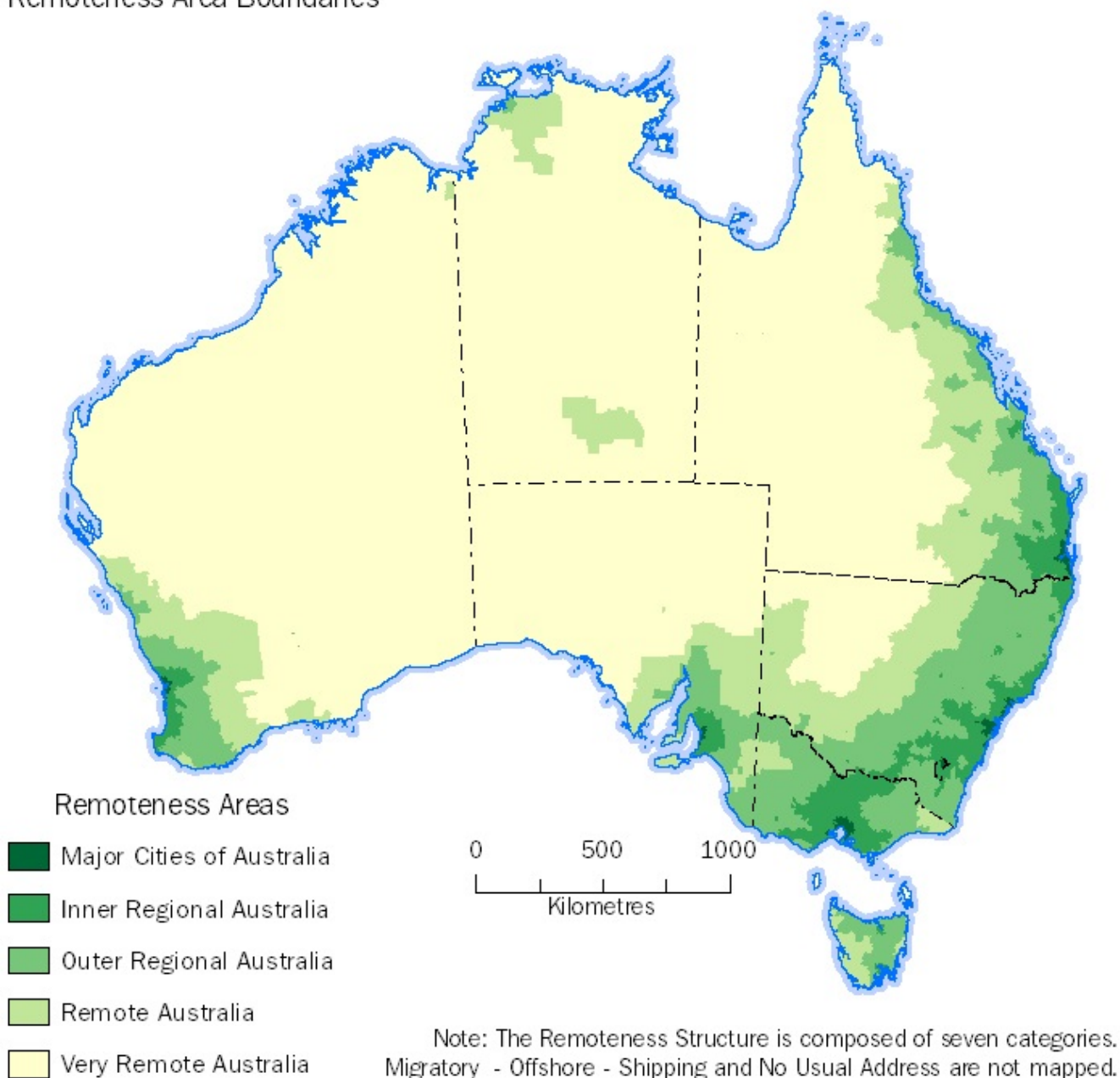
Reflecting Australia's unique distribution of population, the ABS employs a geographical categorisation based on remoteness. The remoteness structure divides Australia into six broad regions of remoteness: major cities, inner regional, outer regional, remote, very remote and migratory. These categories are based on the distance from a given area to major population centres, as a reflection of the region's access to various services.

At June 2012 (ABS, 2013b), the proportion of Australians living in each of these regions was as follows:

- Major cities - 70.4%
- Inner Regional - 18.3%
- Outer Regional - 9.0%
- Remote areas - 1.4%
- Very remote areas - 0.9%

2011 Australian Statistical Geography Standard: Remoteness Structure

Remoteness Area Boundaries



Source: ABS Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 5 - Remoteness Structure, July 2011, (cat. no. 1270.0.55.005)

State and Territory populations

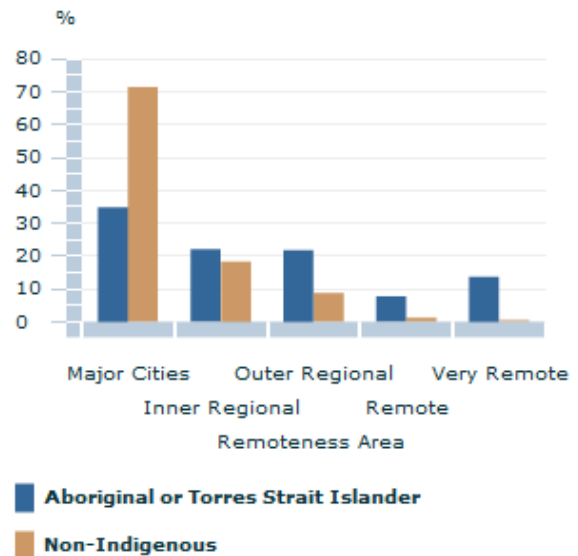
Since European settlement in Australia, New South Wales (NSW) has consistently been the state with the highest population. Between 1901 and 2012, NSW decreased only slightly from 36% of Australia's population to 32%. Victoria has maintained the second highest population since Federation, decreasing from a 32% to a 25% share. Queensland has grown from 13% to 20%, and Western Australia has overtaken South Australia as the fourth most populous state, increasing from 5% to 11% since 1901 (ABS, 2008; ABS, 2013a).

Over the past decade, negative interstate migration has been consistently experienced by NSW (total -3.4%) and South Australia (-2.0%), while Queensland (5.8%) and Western Australia (2.2%) have had the highest interstate migration gains (ABS, 2013a).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population

The

Population distribution by Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander status - 30 June, 2011



Source ABS Estimates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, June 2011 (cat. no. 3238.0.55.001)

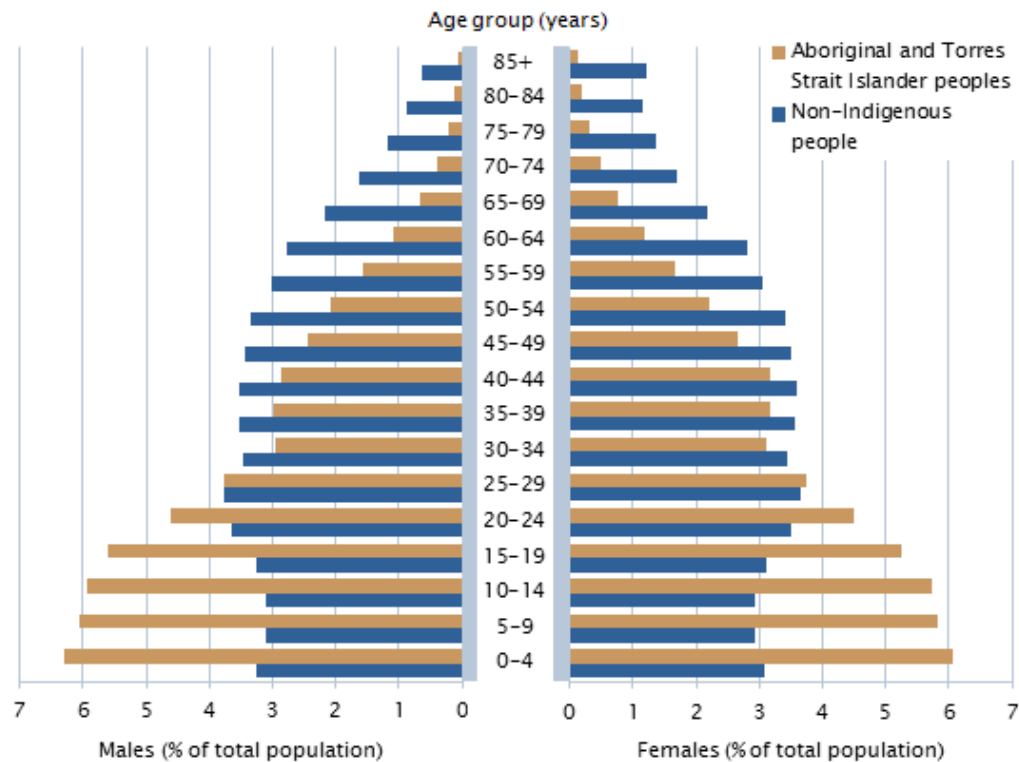
Source(s): ABS Estimates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, June 2011 (cat. no. 3238.0.55.001) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population is estimated to be around 3.0% of the total Australian population (669,900 people) (ABS, 2013c). Over recent decades, the number of people identifying as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin has increased. This is due to a range of factors including changing social attitudes, political developments and improved measurement.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population is relatively young, with a median age of 21.8 years, compared to 37.6 years for the non-Indigenous population in 2011. (ABS, 2013c) This younger age distribution reflects the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population's higher mortality rates and higher fertility rates. In 2011, the median age at death for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people was 55 for males and 59 for females, compared to a total median age at death of 79 for males and 85 for females (ABS, 2012b). The 2011 fertility rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women was 2.7 babies per woman, compared to 1.9 babies per woman for the total population (ABS, 2012a).

The majority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people live in New South Wales (31.1%), and Queensland (28.2%). While only 10.3% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people live in the Northern Territory, they make up almost one third (29.8%) of the total Northern Territory population. In all of the other states and territories, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people make up less than 5% of the total population of their respective states and territories (ABS, 2013c).

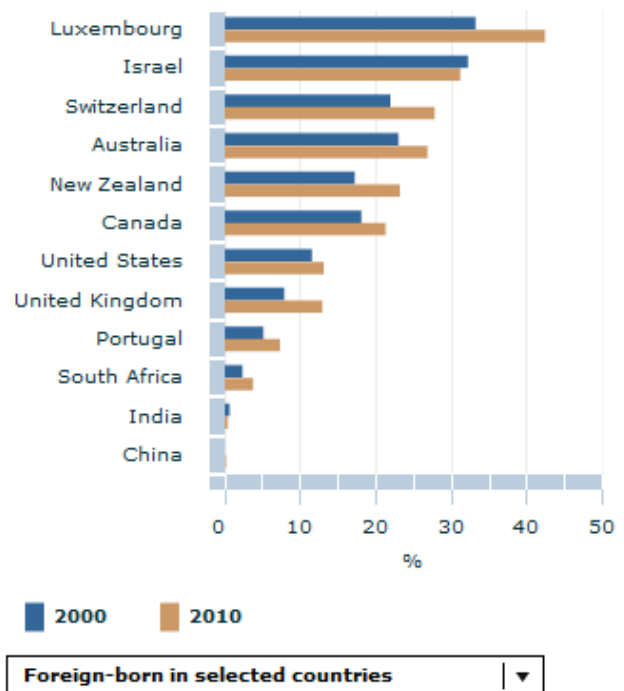
Whilst almost all (90%) of the non-Indigenous population lives in Major cities and Inner regional areas, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population is fairly evenly distributed across Major cities (34.8%), Inner regional (22%), Outer Regional (21.8%) and Remote/Very remote areas (21.4%) (ABS, 2013c).

Population structure for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous people – 30 June 2011



Source: ABS Estimates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, June 2011 (cat. no. 3238.0.55.001)

Overseas born populations



Source OECD 2013, 'International Migration', in Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Factbook 2013: Economic, Environmental and Social Statistics, viewed 1 May 2013

Footnote(s): (a) Estimates for 2011 are preliminary.

Source(s): OECD 2013, 'International Migration', in Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Factbook 2013: Economic, Environmental and Social Statistics, viewed 1 May 2013; ABS Migration, Australia 2010-11 (cat. no. 3412.0)

Overseas Born Population

Australia, along with New Zealand, Canada and the United States, has traditionally been

considered a 'settlement country'. These countries have historically experienced positive net overseas migration, and consequently have relatively high proportions of the population who were born overseas. According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 2010, Australia had the fourth highest proportion of overseas-born residents from a selection of 38 countries (OECD, 2013).

Australia has experienced successive waves of immigration over the past century. Each wave has been characterised by a different predominant region of origin, usually related to world events of the period. For example, immigration from Britain, Germany, Italy and Poland increased markedly following World War II (ABS, 2008).

North-West Europe has historically been the most common region of birth for Australians born overseas. This reflects Australia's history as a British colony, as well as the 'White Australia' immigration policy, which was in place until 1973. While the percentage of Australians born in Europe has declined over the past decade, the percentage of Australians born in the various regions of Asia has been increasing (ABS, 2012c). In 2010-11, the most common regions of birth for overseas-born Australians were North-West Europe (7.1%), Southern and Eastern Europe (3.6%), and South East Asia (3.6%).

Need some more info on the population theme? Hopefully this tab can point you in the right direction

This tab contains the following further information for population:

- Useful links
- Glossary
- References
- Graph summary

USEFUL LINKS

ABS Migration, Australia (cat. no. 3412.0)
ABS Population Projections, Australia (cat. no. 3222.0)
ABS Australian Demographic Statistics (cat. no. 3101.0)
ABS Australian Historical Population Statistics (cat. no. 3105.0.65.001)
ABS Australian Population clock
ABS Animated Population Pyramids
ABS Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 5 - Remoteness Structure, July 2011 (cat. no. 1270.0.55.005)
ABS Estimates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians (cat. no. 3238.0.55.001)
OECD 2013, '[International Migration](#)', in Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Factbook 2013: Economic, Environmental and Social Statistics, viewed 1 May 2013 at <www.oecd-ilibrary.org>.

[Back to top](#)

GLOSSARY

12/16 month rule

A method for measuring an overseas traveller's duration of stay or absence which takes an approach to measure usual residence that does not have to be continuous, as opposed to the continuous approach used under a '12/12 month rule'. Under a '12/16 month rule', incoming overseas travellers (who are not currently counted in the population) must be resident in Australia for a total period of 12 months or more, during the 16 month follow-up period to then be included in

the estimated resident population. Similarly, those travellers departing Australia (who are currently counted in the population) must be absent from Australia for a total of 12 months or more during the 16 month follow-up period to then be subtracted from the estimated resident population.

The 12/16 month rule therefore takes account of those persons who may have left Australia briefly and returned, while still being resident for 12 months out of 16. Similarly, it takes account of Australians who live most of the time overseas but periodically return to Australia for short periods.

Dependency ratio

The dependency ratio is a measure used to compare the size of the working age population to the size of the non-working age population, calculated as the sum of people aged 0-14 and 65 years and over (that is, 'dependents') divided by the number of people aged 15-64 years, multiplied by 100.

Estimated Resident Population (ERP)

The official measure of the population of Australia is based on the concept of usual residence. It refers to all people, regardless of nationality, citizenship or legal status, who usually live in Australia, with the exception of foreign diplomatic personnel and their families. It includes usual residents who are overseas for less than 12 months over a 16 month period. It excludes overseas visitors who are in Australia for less than 12 months over a 16 month period.

Estimates of the Australian resident population are generated on a quarterly basis by adding natural increase (the excess of births over deaths) and net overseas migration (NOM) occurring during the period to the population at the beginning of each period. This is known as the cohort component method and can be represented by the following equation:

$P(t+1) = P(t) + B - D + \text{NOM}$, where:

$P(t)$ = the estimated resident population at time point t

$P(t+1)$ = the estimated resident population at time point $t+1$

B = the number of births occurring between t and $t+1$

D = the number of deaths occurring between t and $t+1$

NOM = net overseas migration occurring between t and $t+1$.

For state and territory population estimates, an additional term is added to the equation representing net interstate migration (NIM) occurring between t and $t+1$, represented by the following equation:

$P(t+1) = P(t) + B - D + \text{NOM} + \text{NIM}$.

Natural increase

Excess of births over deaths.

Net Interstate Migration (NIM)

The difference between the number of persons who have changed their place of usual residence by moving into a given state or territory and the number who have changed their place of usual residence by moving out of that state or territory during a specified time period. This difference can be either positive or negative.

Net Overseas Migration (NOM)

Net overseas migration is the net gain or loss of population through immigration to Australia and emigration from Australia. Under the current method for estimating final net overseas migration this

term is based on a traveller's actual duration of stay or absence using the '12/16 month rule'. Preliminary NOM estimates are modelled on patterns of traveller behaviours observed in final NOM estimates for the same period one year earlier. NOM is:

- based on an international traveller's duration of stay being in or out of Australia for 12 months or more over a 16 month period;
the difference between:
- the number of incoming international travellers who stay in Australia for 12 months or more over a 16 month period, who are not currently counted within the population, and are then added to the population (NOM arrivals); and
- the number of outgoing international travellers (Australian residents and long-term visitors to Australia) who leave Australia for 12 months or more over a 16 month period, who are currently counted within the population, and are then subtracted from the population (NOM departures).

Population growth

For Australia, population growth is the sum of natural increase and net overseas migration. For states and territories, population growth also includes net interstate migration. After the Census of Population and Housing, intercensal population growth also includes an allowance for intercensal discrepancy.

Replacement fertility rate

Replacement level fertility is the number of babies a female would need to have over her reproductive life span to replace herself and her partner. Given the current mortality of females up to age 49 years, replacement fertility is estimated at around 2.1 babies per female. Replacement fertility rate = $(1 + \text{Sex Ratio at Birth}) / \text{Probability (Female survives to average childbearing age)}$.

Total Fertility Rate (TFR)

The sum of age-specific fertility rates (live births at each age of mother per 1,000 of the female population of that age) divided by 1,000. It represents the number of children a female would bear during her lifetime if she experienced current age-specific fertility rates at each age of her reproductive life.

[Back to top](#)

REFERENCES

ABS 2013a, [Australian Demographic Statistics, Dec 2012](#), 3101.0, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Canberra.

ABS 2013b, [Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2011-12](#), 3218.0, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Canberra.

ABS 2013c, [Experimental Estimates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, June 2011](#), 3238.0.55.001, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Canberra.

ABS 2013d, [Australian Statistical Geography Standard \(ASGS\): Volume 5 - Remoteness Structure, July 2011](#), 1270.0.55.005, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Canberra.

ABS 2012a, [Births, Australia, 2011](#), 3301.0, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Canberra.

ABS 2012b, [Deaths, Australia, 2011](#), 3302.0, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Canberra.

ABS 2012c, [Migration, Australia 2010-11](#), 3412.0, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Canberra.

ABS 2012d, [Census of Population and Housing - Characteristics of Aboriginal and Torres Strait](#)

Islander Australians, 2011, 2076.0, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Canberra.

ABS 2012e, Census of Population and Housing - Counts of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2011, 2075.0, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Canberra.

ABS 2008, Australian Historical Population Statistics, 2008, 3105.0.65.001, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Canberra.

OECD 2003, Low fertility Rates in OECD Countries: Facts and Policy Responses, OECD Social, Employment and Migration Working Papers, J. E. Slesbos, viewed 19 July 2013 at <<http://www.oecd.org/>>.

OECD 2013, 'International Migration', in Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Factbook 2013: Economic, Environmental and Social Statistics, viewed 1 May 2013 at <www.oecd-ilibrary.org>.

Sheridan, Greg 2010, 'Populate or Perish still true' in The Australian, 8th April, 2010.

Sustainable Population Australia 2013 'About SPA', viewed 1st May, <www.population.org.au>.

[Back to top](#)

GRAPH SUMMARY

Click on the links below to be taken to a summary of the graphs from the corresponding tab within the population chapter:

Growth

Age and sex

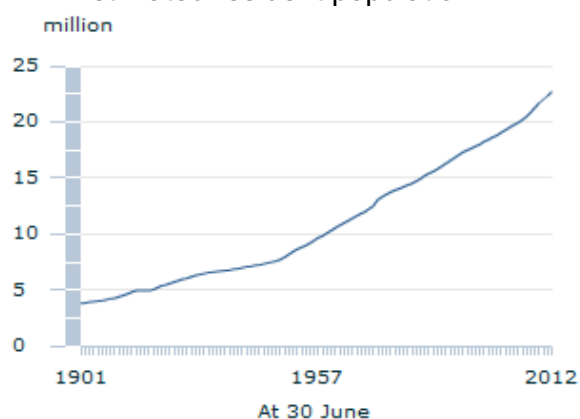
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population

Migrants

GROWTH

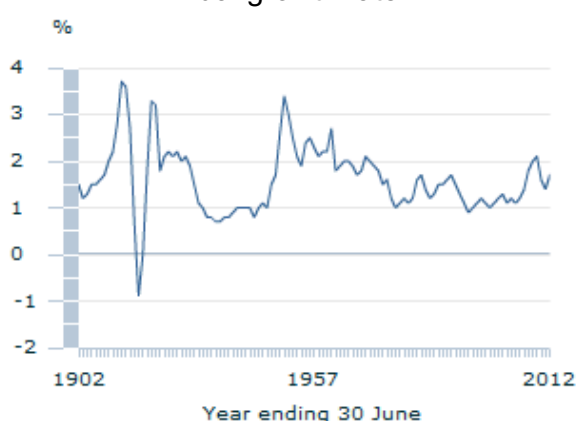
Australia's population

Estimated resident population



Source:
ABS Australian Demographic Statistics December 2012 (cat no. 3101.0)
ABS Australian Historical Population Statistics (cat. no. 3105.0.65.001)

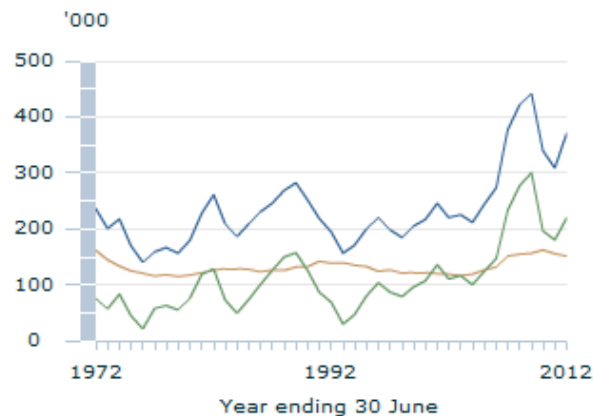
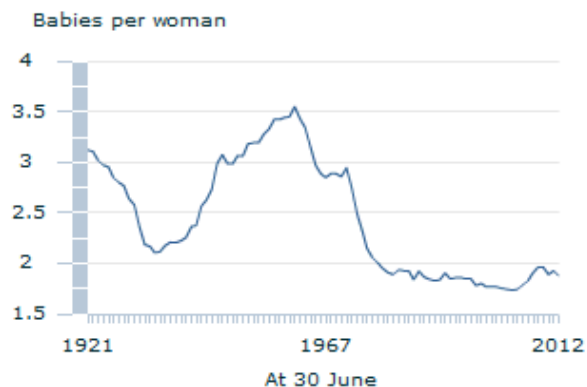
Annual growth rate



Source:
ABS Australian Demographic Statistics December 2012 (cat no. 3101.0)
ABS Australian Historical Population Statistics (cat. no. 3105.0.65.001)

Total fertility rate(a)

Components of growth



Footnote:

(a) Total fertility rate represents the number of children a female would bear during her lifetime if she experienced current age-specific fertility rates at each age of her reproductive life. See Glossary.

Source:

ABS Australian Demographic Statistics December 2012 (cat no. 3101.0)

ABS Australian Historical Population Statistics (cat. no. 3105.0.65.001)

Population growth

Natural increase

NOM(a)

Footnote:

(a) Estimates for September quarter 2006 onwards use an improved methodology. Caution should be exercised when comparing estimates over time.

Source:

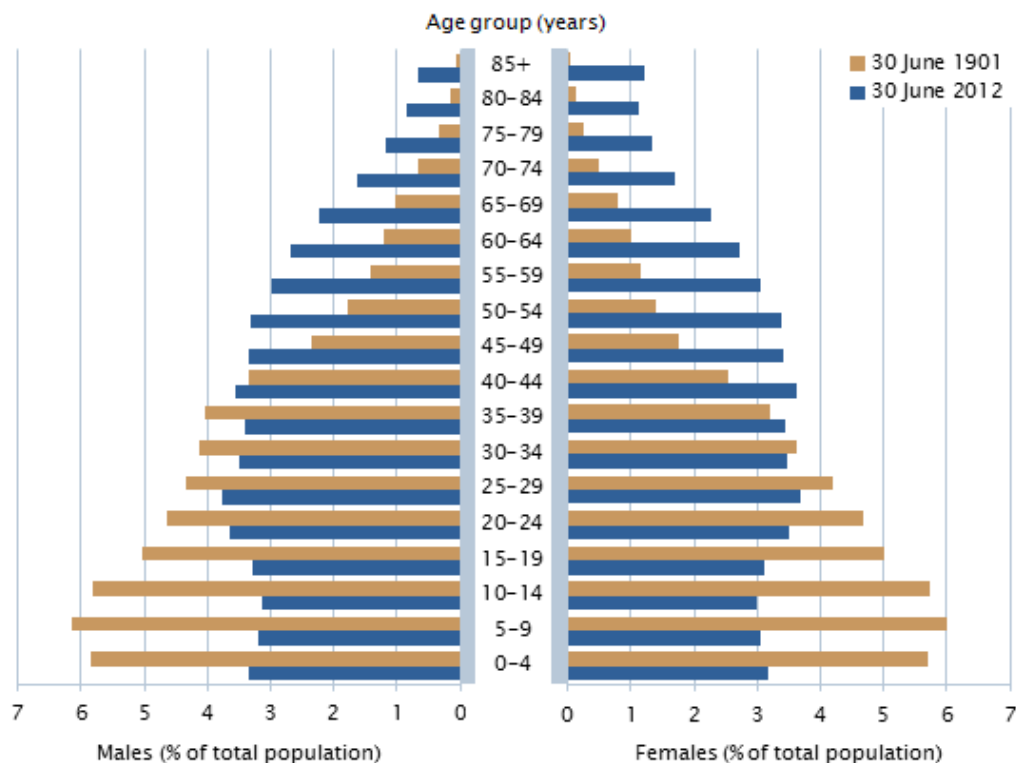
ABS Australian Demographic Statistics December 2012 (cat no. 3101.0)

ABS Australian Historical Population Statistics (cat. no. 3105.0.65.001)

[Back to top](#)

AGE AND SEX

Population structure - 1901 and 2012



Source:

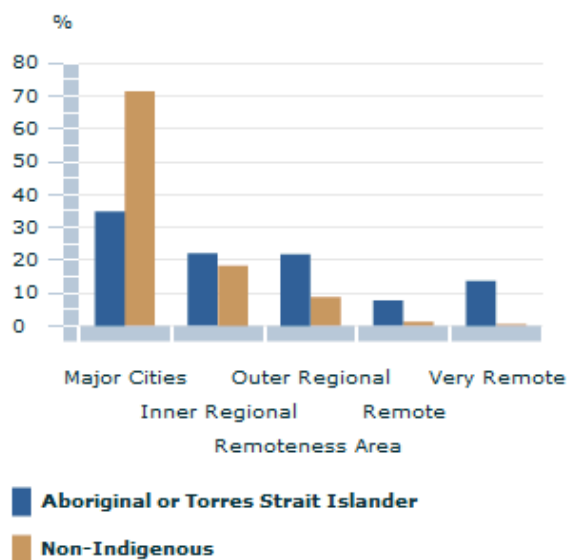
ABS Australian Demographic Statistics December 2012 (cat no. 3101.0)

ABS Australian Historical Population Statistics (cat. no. 3105.0.65.001)

[Back to top](#)

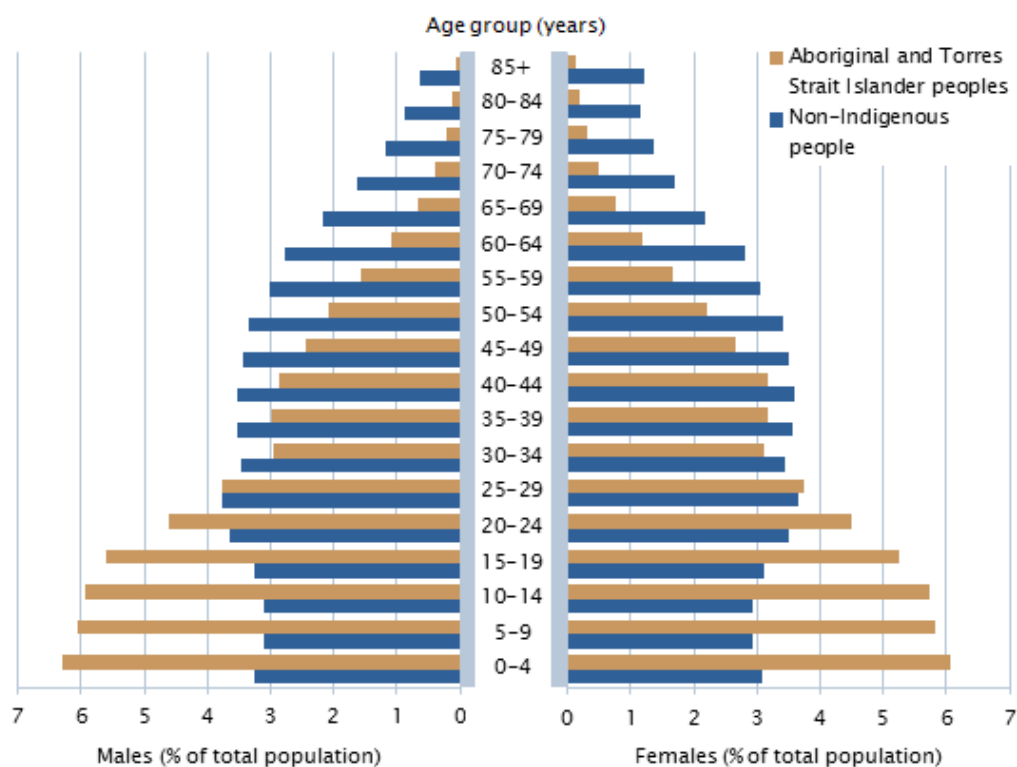
ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER POPULATION

Population distribution by Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander status - 30 June, 2011



Source:
ABS Estimates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, June 2011 (cat. no. 3238.0.55.001)

Population structure for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous people - 30 June 2011

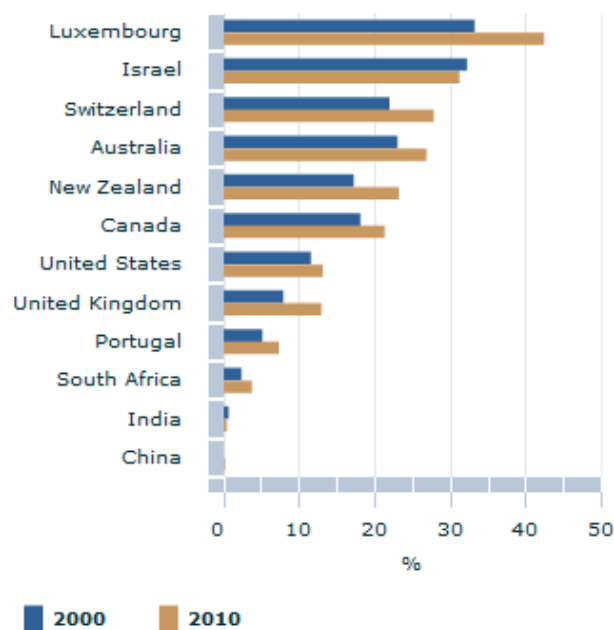


Source:
ABS Estimates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, June 2011 (cat. no. 3238.0.55.001)

[Back to top](#)

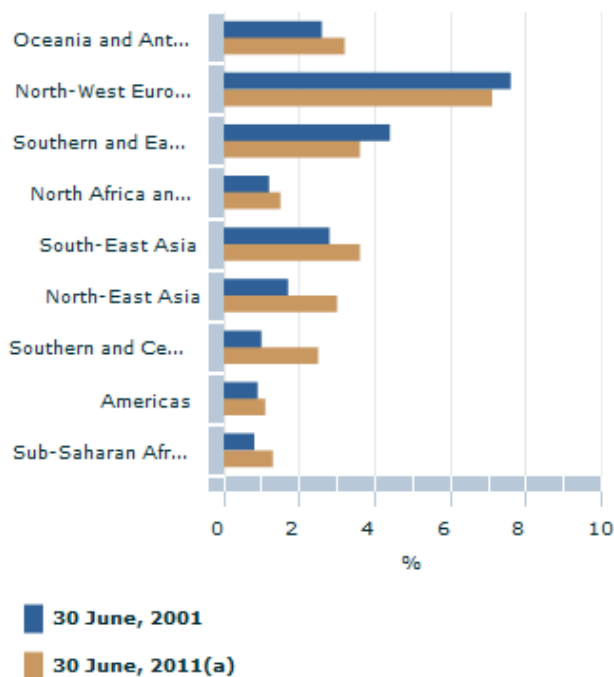
MIGRANTS

Overseas born populations Foreign born in selected countries



Source:
 OECD 2013, 'International Migration', in Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Factbook 2013: Economic, Environmental and Social Statistics, viewed 1 May 2013

Australia's population from region of birth



Footnote:
 (a) Estimates for 2011 are preliminary.
 Source:
 ABS Migration, Australia 2010-11 (cat. no. 3412.0)

[Back to top](#)



Rural and regional progress

Australians aspire to understand if their local region is heading in the right direction

Is my region making progress? **Progress?**

What are regions? **Regions**

Society **Society**

Economy **Economy**

Environment **Environment**

Governance **Governance**

Further info **Further info**

Is my region making progress?

In a vast and diverse nation such as Australia, it's not surprising that people have expressed a strong desire to know whether life in their local area is getting better.

There are important differences between measuring regional progress and measuring the overall progress of the nation. Although people across Australia tend to agree on overall measures of social, economic and environmental progress, and on the importance of good governance, the aspirations of people in different regions throughout Australia may vary and can change over time.

Rural areas that are experiencing an extended period of drought, or the loss of a significant industry, or the discovery of a new mineral resource, are all facing different challenges and different indicators may best measure their progress. For example, communities in Queensland affected by major flooding in 2010, and communities in Victoria affected by the 2009 major bushfires, want to monitor progress in the physical reconstruction of their communities, as well as their economic recovery and wellbeing. (Endnote 1, Endnote 2)

Major cities face different challenges as they continue to grow by extending their boundaries or by increasing their population density with more consolidated housing developments. In 2012, close to two-thirds of Australia's population resided in a capital city. These cities grew by 10% from 2007 to 2012, faster than the rest of Australia (7%). In 2012, seven out of ten Australians lived in a major city. (Endnote 3) Unlike rural areas, the rapid increase in international student numbers in capital cities since 2000 may have contributed to accommodation and transport demands particularly for Melbourne and Sydney. (Endnote 4) While it is not possible to clearly identify overseas students in the Census, 2011 data shows that one in every fifteen (7%) people aged fifteen years and over living in the City of Sydney (Local Government Area - LGA) attended a Tertiary Institution and was born overseas. In the City of Melbourne (LGA) the equivalent figure was about one in six residents (17%). (Endnote 5)

This chapter discusses progress indicators at the regional level for each broad area of MAP, i.e. society, economy, environment and governance.

This chapter also includes a reference datacube available via the Downloads and data page, that details the availability of MAP indicators at the regional level.

Check out the further info tab on this page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

What are regions?

A region does not exist in isolation. The term 'region' can be used in many different ways. In this chapter, it is used to refer to geographic areas that are smaller than states or territories. Such regions can include:

- statistical areas, such as Greater Capital City Statistical Areas and Statistical Area Levels 1, 2, 3, and 4, which are defined in the ABS Australian Statistical Geography Standard;
- administrative regions, such as Local Government Areas;

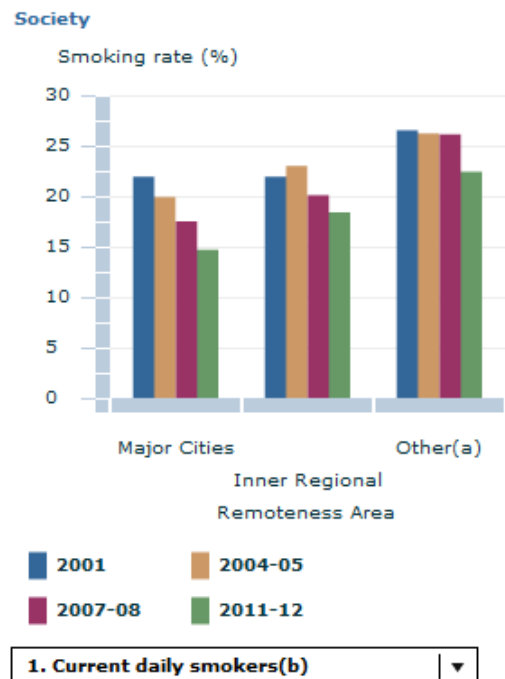
- environmental regions, such as Natural Resource Management Regions;
- service regions, such as Medicare Local Areas.

In determining the progress of regions, it's important to consider the relationships between regions. Regions are connected, as people travel between them, perhaps living in one region and working in another, socialising and spending money, accessing services (such as education and health) or enjoying the natural environment in other regions. Thus, the social, economic and environmental progress in one region can be related to, and affected by, what happens in other regions. When looking at different regions it is important to consider the jurisdictional boundaries, links between regions, relationship and dependencies between different regions, and the movement of people across boundaries.

Local Governments need to plan services for their regions based not only on the population who live in the region but also for those who regularly visit, or move in and out of their region. Between 2006 and 2011, 38% of Australians changed their place of permanent residence. (Endnote 6) Therefore, analysis of population growth and turnover for Local Government Areas can be a useful aid for decision making. (Endnote 7)

In looking at the progress of different regions, it is most appropriate to choose a regional scale which reflects both the area you are interested in and the question about progress you want to answer. For example, if you want to know about the labour force in your area, then choose the Statistical Area Level 4 where you live, because these regions were specifically designed for the output of labour force statistics and reflect labour markets.

Check out the further info tab on this page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.



Footnote (a) Includes Outer Regional and Remote areas.
(b) Persons aged 18 years and over.

Source ABS National Health Survey, 2001 (cat no. 4364.0)
ABS National Health Survey, 2004-05 (cat no. 4364.0)
ABS National Health Survey, 2007-08 (cat no. 4364.0)
ABS Australian Health Survey: Updated Results, 2011-12 (cat no. 4364.0.55.003)

Footnote(s): (a) Includes Outer Regional and Remote areas. (b) Persons aged 18 years and over.;(a) Persons aged 25-64 years with a vocational or higher education qualification. (b) Total with vocational or higher education qualification includes level of education inadequately described.

Source(s): ABS National Health Survey, 2001 (cat no. 4364.0); ABS National Health Survey, 2004-05 (cat no. 4364.0); ABS

Society

There are many important aspects to the measurement of social progress in Australia. Being healthy, having a home and adequate living conditions, the opportunity to participate in learning, as well as, having the time and opportunity and support to maintain close relationships are some of those aspects. Also considered important is the uniquely Australian ethos of a 'fair go', embracing diversity, building strong connections within our communities, and feeling and being safe in the environments in which we live. Local communities also want to know about how they are faring on these areas of progress and there can be significant differences across the country.

The national headline progress indicator for health is life expectancy. In 2011, the region of Sydney - North Sydney and Hornsby (Endnote 8) had the highest life expectancy for both males and females, 83.9 years for males and 86.5 years for females. Northern Territory - Outback had the lowest life expectancy for both males and females; 72.3 years and 76.1 years respectively. This compares with 79.7 years for males and 84.2 years for females nationally. (Endnote 9)

A healthy lifestyle can contribute to a longer life expectancy. Smoking rates for current daily smokers in Australia have consistently decreased between 2001 and 2011-12, decreasing from 22% in 2001 to 16% in 2011-12 (see healthy lifestyles in health for more information). However, this is an example of averaged national data hiding the outcome for smaller areas. Differences exist across areas of Australia, with smoking rates higher in regional and remote areas of Australia than in major cities. While rates have decreased in recent years in regional and remote areas, improvements have been greater in major cities.

The educational attainment of the population is a critical part of the skills available in regional labour markets and is an important component of human capital in regions. At the regional level, age structures can affect the attainment rate, such as, the higher the proportion of young people in the population, the higher the proportion of attainment. Generally this pattern is not seen in the state and territory and national data where these differences are smoothed out.

The national headline progress indicator for learning and knowledge, the proportion of people aged 25-64 years with a vocational or higher education qualification, is available from the ABS Survey of Work and Education (see learning and knowledge for more information). The lowest level of geographic output is at the state and territory level. However, similar data can be sourced from the Census of Population and Housing for smaller areas.

When looking at educational attainment by regions, it shows that regional education indicators can vary across Australia. In 2011, the region with the highest proportion of persons aged 25-64 years with a vocational qualification was the Hunter Valley (excluding Newcastle) with 41% compared to 33% for Australia. Sydney - North Sydney and Hornsby had the highest proportion of persons aged 25-64 years with a higher education qualification (57%), more than double that of Australia (27%).

As we have chosen to present two progress indicators for the society element of rural and regional progress, you can use the drop down menu on the graph to look at graphs relevant to each of these indicators (graphs are also available on the further info tab).

Volunteering data is particularly important for regions, given the key roles volunteers play in the establishment and ongoing operations of sporting groups, fire services and local social services. According to 2011 Census data, the proportion of Australians aged 15 years and over that volunteered for an organisation or group in the previous twelve months was 18%. The top three regions were all rural:

- Barossa - Yorke - Mid North in South Australia with 29%;
- Western Australia - Wheat Belt with 28%;
- Warrnambool and South West in Victoria with 28%.

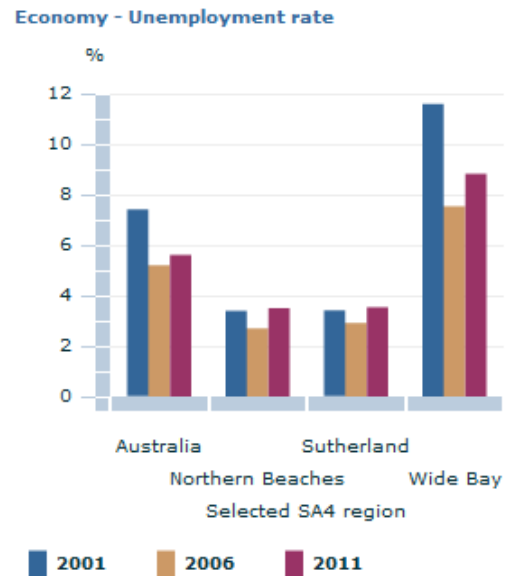
Check out the further info tab on this page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

Economy

Australia's regional economies vary greatly in size, in the age of their populations, in their major industries, businesses, natural resources, built environment and infrastructure. Regional economies are important because they influence Australia's overall economic progress.

Regional economies can be affected in different ways by national economic influences. For example, an increase in the Australian dollar exchange rate may result in decreased income in regions which depend on exports, such as agriculture or tourism. Conversely, this may contribute to reduced costs in regions where businesses import a lot of goods, such as retail trade businesses.

Source(s): Data available on request, ABS Censuses of Population and Housing



Source Data available on request, ABS Censuses of Population and Housing

Regional economies are also influenced by local factors that may not be reflected in national and international indicators. For example, the closure of a local firm may have a substantial impact on employment in a region, without having a noticeable national impact.

The graph on this tab, presents regional unemployment rates in 2001, 2006 and 2011, demonstrates how regional economic indicators can vary within Australia across the 106 large labour market regions (Statistical Area Level 4). The region of Wide Bay in Queensland had the highest unemployment rate in 2011 of 8.8% according to Census data. While the Sydney - Northern Beaches and Sydney - Sutherland regions in New South Wales had the lowest unemployment rate of 3.5%. This compares with the national unemployment rate of 5.6% (Census 2011).

Measuring regional economies is challenging and involves significant conceptual and practical issues, including the availability of data.

Many national economic indicators are derived from Australia's National Accounts, including Gross Domestic Product (GDP), national disposable income, real net worth, and labour productivity. While some of these data are available at the state and territory level, it is not currently feasible to produce complete regional accounts. This is due to conceptual issues, such as, allocating the economic activity of businesses and governments to regions, and practical issues, such as, obtaining the necessary data, for example, data about the trade of goods and services between regions. For more information, see the Australian System of National Accounts (cat. no. 5204.0), the Australian System of National Accounts: Concepts, Sources and Methods (cat. no. 5216.0) and the Australian National Accounts: State Accounts (cat. no. 5220.0).

Our analysis has found that there were a high proportion of business owners in regions outside of Australian greater capital cities, with almost one in five income earners outside the capital cities being business owners. While one in every seven Australians received income from running their own unincorporated business. The majority of Australian business owners were male (66%), older than the general working population (median age of 47 years compared to 40 years for the average worker), and working in the three main industries of construction; agriculture, forestry and fishing; and professional, scientific and technical services.

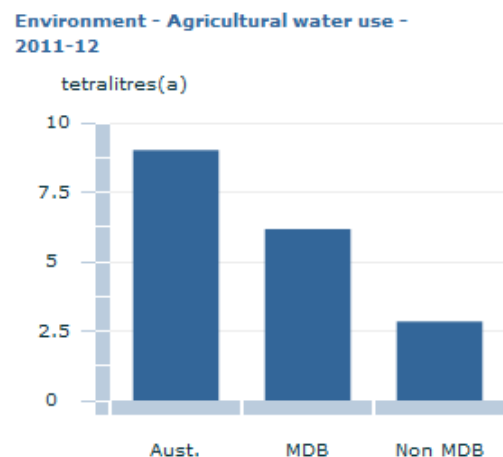
The region of Darling Downs - Maranoa, a rural region in south-eastern Queensland, had the highest proportion of business owners with almost a third (32%) of income earners there receiving income from an unincorporated business. This was closely followed by the Wheat Belt region of Western Australia, where 31% of income earners were business owners.

Further information can be found in Perspectives on Regional Australia: Business Owners in Regions, 2011 (cat. no. 1380.0.55.008).

Despite some data gaps, which include non-agricultural regional production, investment, and prices, proxy regional indicators can be derived from the census (as shown above) and other regional datasets, such as Counts of Australian Business Entries and Exits (cat. no. 8165.0) and Building Approvals (cat. no. 8731.0).

We are working towards improving the availability and use of regional economic data, as part of a long-term regional economic data development project. For more information about this work, see the regular updates in What's New in Regional Statistics (cat. no. 1386.0) or email regional.statistics@abs.gov.au.

Check out the further info tab on this page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.



Footnote Note: MDB = Murray-Darling Basin
(a) A tetralitre is a million times a million litres (1,000,000,000,000 litres).

Source ABS Water Use on Australian Farms, 2011-12 (cat. no. 4618.0)

Footnote(s): Note: MDB = Murray-Darling Basin (a) A tetralitre is a million times a million litres (1,000,000,000,000 litres).

Source(s): ABS Water Use on Australian Farms, 2011-12 (cat. no. 4618.0)

Environment

Australia's natural environment is fundamental to the quality of life and wellbeing of Australians, as well as providing key inputs to the economy. Until recently there has been a tendency to take clean water, clean air and Australia's natural resources and attractions for granted. However, with increasing population and economic pressures, many people are increasingly concerned about the state of their local, state and Australian environments.

As a country, Australia exhibits extraordinary environmental diversity, which means that the environmental challenges and opportunities facing regional areas are complex and differ markedly from one area to another. (Endnote 10)

One of the key challenges facing Australia is the need to create economic growth whilst managing impacts to the environment. This is particularly important for regional areas where there is a need to understand local environmental issues to develop and implement effective local solutions.

One significant area that is balancing sustainable water resource use with the social and economic needs of the community is the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB). The Murray-Darling Basin Authority was created to undertake activities that support the sustainable and integrated management of the water resources of the MDB in a way that best meets the social, economic and environmental needs of the Basin and its communities.

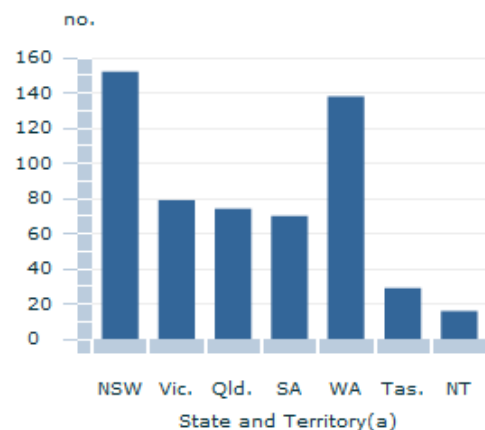
The MDB is a regional area of national significance for social, cultural, economic and environmental reasons. It covers 14% of Australia's land area, contains Australia's three longest rivers (the Darling, the Murray and the Murrumbidgee), and is home to 10% of the Australian population. Significant proportions of the Basin's area are comprised of agricultural land (67%) and native forest (32%). (Endnote 11). Most

of the water used in the MDB is for agriculture, and this represents around two thirds of Australia's total agricultural water use.

Australians are generally concerned about progress having a negative impact on their local environment. During the 12 months to March 2012, 98% of Australian households residing in capital cities participated in some form of recycling, along with 95% of households in the balance of state/territory. (Endnote 12) Rainwater tanks were the most popular source of water for South Australians residing outside of Adelaide (83%). Victorian households residing outside of Melbourne also had a high prevalence of rainwater tanks (47%). (Endnote 13)

Check out the further info tab on this page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

Governance - Local Government Areas - 2013



Footnote (a) There are no Local Government Areas in the Australian Capital Territory.

Source ABS Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 3 - Non ABS Structures, July 2013 (cat. no. 1270.0.55.003)

Footnote(s): (a) There are no Local Government Areas in the Australian Capital Territory.

Source(s): ABS Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 3 - Non ABS Structures, July 2013 (cat. no. 1270.0.55.003)

Governance

Governance gives communities the ways and means to organise themselves to manage affairs, make decisions and achieve the things that matter to them. In Australia, we have three tiers of government working together to ensure a fair, equitable and functioning society. Australian citizens vote to elect representatives to each of these levels: federal, state or territory and local. The idea of governance goes beyond the functions of Government; however, this chapter focusses on the government aspect of governance.

At the regional level, local government is the tier of government that is most connected to our neighbourhood, and is the relevant administrative arm at the local level. Councils are the decision-making bodies for local government and are established by state governments to look after particular needs of a city or local community. Within each Local Government Area (LGA), various services are provided, though there are many variations between states as well as between urban and rural councils. Local maintenance responsibilities may include sanitary and garbage services; road, street and bridge construction; water supply and sewerage; local libraries and museums; fire brigades; harbour services; town planning, and some local health and welfare services.

Each state and the Northern Territory has a number of LGAs, known variously as cities, towns, municipalities, boroughs, shires or districts. The main variation is the existence of various councils in the Northern Territory that are based on rural Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. There are approximately 560 local councils in Australia. Councillors and aldermen are elected by local residents. There are no local councils in the Australian Capital Territory, where the territory government has direct

responsibility for local services.

We form LGA boundaries by approximating officially gazetted LGAs as defined by each state and territory local government departments, using Statistical Area Level 1s. Our approximated LGAs cover incorporated areas of Australia. Incorporated areas are legally designated parts of states and territories over which incorporated local governing bodies have responsibility. The major areas of Australia not administered by incorporated bodies are the northern parts of South Australia and all of the Australian Capital Territory and the Other Territories. These regions are identified as 'Unincorporated' in the ABS LGA structure. Further information about LGAs can be found in Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 3 - Non ABS Structures, July 2011 - Chapter 2 Local Government Areas (cat. no. 1270.0.55.003).

In New South Wales and Victoria, voting in the local government elections is compulsory and the turnout rates in these states are reasonably high. In 2008, the turnout rate in New South Wales was 83%, while in 2012 the turnout rate in Victoria was 73%. (Endnote 14; Endnote 15) However, in other states where voting is not compulsory, turnout rates were much lower. For example, about 54% of enrolled people voted in Tasmania's 2011 local government elections (Endnote 16), and 31% did so in Western Australia's 2011 local government elections. (Endnote 17).

The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) is the national voice of local government, and has a membership made up of state and territory local government associations.

Local councils are interested in measuring performance and monitoring wellbeing for their community. Research has been undertaken by the Australian Centre for Excellence in Local Government (ACELG) and results released in Community Wellbeing Indicators: Measures for Local Government to create a set of 'fit for purpose' indicators to measure, analyse and assess the progress of community wellbeing. ACELG have also undertaken research on livability indicators, published in Options for a Local Government Framework for Measuring Liveability.

Check out the further info tab on this page for useful links, a glossary and references relating to this chapter.

Need some more info on rural and regional progress? Hopefully this tab can point you in the right direction

This tab contains the following further information for rural and regional progress:

- Useful links
- Glossary
- Endnotes
- Graph summary

USEFUL LINKS

ABS National Regional Profile (NRP)
ABS Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS)
ABS Topics @ a Glance - Regional @ a Glance
ABS Topics @ a Glance - States and Territories - New South Wales
ABS Topics @ a Glance - States and Territories - Victoria
ABS Topics @ a Glance - States and Territories - Queensland
ABS Topics @ a Glance - States and Territories - South Australia
ABS Topics @ a Glance - States and Territories - Western Australia
ABS Topics @ a Glance - States and Territories - Tasmania
ABS Topics @ a Glance - States and Territories - Northern Territory
ABS Topics @ a Glance - States and Territories - Australian Capital Territory
ABS Census of Population and Housing
ABS Perspectives on Regional Australia: Business Owners in Regions, 2011 (cat. no. 1380.0.55.008)

ABS What's new in Regional Statistics, 2013 (cat. no. 1386.0)
ABS Australian System of National Accounts (cat. no. 5204.0)
ABS Australian System of National Accounts: Concepts, Sources and Methods, Edition 3 (cat. no. 5216.0)
ABS Australian System of National Accounts: State Accounts, 2011-12 (cat. no. 5220.0)
ABS Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits, Jun 2008 to Jun 2012 (cat. no. 8165.0)
ABS Building Approvals, Australia, August 2013 (cat. no. 8731.0)
Australian Local Government Association (ALGA)
Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government (ACELG) - Community Wellbeing Indicators: Measures for Local Government
Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government (ACELG) - Options for a Local Government Framework for Measuring Liveability.
Murray-Darling Basin Authority

[Back to top](#)

GLOSSARY

Employed

All persons aged 15 years and over who, during the reference week:

- worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind in a job or business, or on a farm (comprising employees, employers and own account workers);
- worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business or on a farm (i.e. contributing family workers);
- were employees who had a job but were not at work and were:
- away from work for fewer than four weeks up to the end of the reference week;
- away from work for more than four weeks up to the end of the reference week and received pay for some or all of the four week period to the end of the reference week;
- away from work as a standard work or shift arrangement;
- on strike or locked out;
- on workers' compensation and expected to return to their job;
- were employers or own account workers, who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

Is the total market value of goods and services produced in Australia within a given period after deducting the cost of goods and services used up in the process of production but before deducting allowances for the consumption of fixed capital. Thus gross domestic product, as here defined, is 'at market prices'. It is equivalent to gross national expenditure plus exports of goods and services less imports of goods and services. Farm product is that part of gross domestic product which arises from production in agriculture and services to agriculture. It is equivalent to the value added of ANZSIC 06 subdivision 01 'Agriculture' plus taxes less subsidies on products primary to this subdivision. Non-farm product arises from production in all other industries.

Higher education qualifications

Includes Postgraduate Degree, Master Degree, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate and Bachelor Degree.

Labour force

For any group, persons who were employed or unemployed, as defined.

Labour force status

A classification of the civilian population aged 15 years and over into employed, unemployed or not in the labour force, as defined. The definitions conform closely to the international standard definitions adopted by the International Conferences of Labour Statisticians.

Labour productivity

Labour productivity estimates are indexes of real GDP per person employed or per hour worked. They have been derived by dividing the chain volume measure of GDP by employment (or hours worked). Estimates are also made using labour inputs adjusted for the quality and composition of labour input. Labour productivity indexes reflect not only the contribution of labour to changes in product per labour unit, but are also influenced by the contribution of capital and other factors affecting production.

Life Expectancy

Life expectancy refers to the average number of additional years a person of a given age and sex might expect to live if the age-specific death rates of the given period continued throughout his/her lifetime.

Local Government Area (LGA)

A Local Government Area (LGA) is a geographical area under the responsibility of an incorporated local government council, or an incorporated Indigenous government council. The LGAs in Australia collectively cover only a part of Australia. The main areas not covered by LGAs are northern parts of South Australia, a large part of the Northern Territory, the western division of New South Wales, all of the Australian Capital Territory and the Other Territories.

The number of LGAs and their boundaries can change over time. Their creation and delimitation is the responsibility of the respective state/territory governments, and are governed by the provisions of state/territory local government and other relevant Acts.

Net worth

In the national and sectoral balance sheets, net worth represents the difference between the stock of assets (both financial and non-financial) and the stock of liabilities (including shares and other equity). Because it is derived residually, it can be negative.

Not in labour force

Persons who were not in the categories employed or unemployed, as defined.

People with a vocational or higher education qualification

Proportion of people with either a vocational or higher education qualification (includes those whose level could not be determined).

Qualification

Formal certification, issued by a relevant approved body, in recognition that a person has achieved an appropriate level of learning outcomes or competencies relevant to identified individual, professional, industry or community needs. Statements of attainment awarded for partial completion of a course of study at a particular level are excluded.

Real

Real incomes payable and receivable are calculated by dividing the nominal (current) income flows by the implicit price deflator for gross national expenditure.

Real net national disposable income (RNNDI)

Calculated by:

- taking real gross domestic income;
- deducting real incomes payable to the rest of the world;
- adding real incomes receivable from the rest of the world;
- deducting the volume measure of consumption of fixed capital.

Real incomes payable and receivable are calculated by dividing the nominal income flows by the implicit price deflator for gross national expenditure. In the derivation of the aggregate, all of the adjustments are made using the chain volume aggregation method used to derive all of the ABS chain volume estimates.

Region

The term 'region' can be used in many different ways. In this chapter, it is used to refer to geographic areas that are smaller than states or territories. Such regions can include:

- statistical areas, such as Greater Capital City Statistical Areas and Statistical Areas level 1, 2, 3, and 4, which are defined in the ABS Australian Statistical Geography Standard;
- administrative regions, such as Local Government Areas;
- environmental regions, such as Natural Resource Management Regions;
- service regions, such as Medicare Local Areas.

Remoteness structure

The Remoteness Areas (RAs) divide Australia into broad geographic regions that share common characteristics of remoteness for statistical purposes. The Remoteness Structure divides each state and territory into several regions on the basis of their relative access to services. There are six classes of RA in the Remoteness Structure: Major Cities of Australia, Inner Regional Australia, Outer Regional Australia, Remote Australia, Very Remote Australia and Migratory. RAs are based on the Accessibility and Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA) produced by the Australian Population and Migration Research Centre at the University of Adelaide.

Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1)

SA1s have been designed as the smallest unit for the release of Census data. SA1s generally have a population of 200 to 800 persons, and an average population of about 400 persons. They are built from whole Mesh Blocks and there are approximately 55,000 SA1s covering the whole of Australia. See the Australia Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) for more information.

Statistical Area Level 4 (SA4)

SA4s are the largest sub-State regions. They are designed for the output of Labour Force Survey data and reflect labour markets within each state and territory within the population limits imposed by the Labour Force Survey sample. SA4s provide the best sub-state socio-economic breakdown in the ASGS. SA4s are built from whole SA3s and cover the whole of Australia. There are 88 SA4s. See the Australia Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) for more information.

Unemployed

People aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the reference week, and:

- had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week and were available for work in the reference week;
- were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the reference week and could have started in the reference week if the job had been available then.

Vocational education training

Post-compulsory education and training, excluding degree and higher level programs delivered by higher education institutions, which provides people with occupational work related knowledge and skills. Vocational education and training also included programs which provide the basis for subsequent vocational programs.

[Back to top](#)

ENDNOTES

1. *Queensland Recovery and Reconstruction in the Aftermath of the 2010/2011 Flood Events and Cyclone Yasi*, A report prepared by the World Bank in collaboration with the Queensland Reconstruction

Authority, June 2011

2. State Government of Victoria, *Victorian Bushfire Recovery, Three Year Report*, February 2012
3. Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2012 (cat. no. 3218.0)
4. Department of Infrastructure and Transport, *State of Australian Cities 2013*, Canberra, p4
5. ABS Population of Census and Housing, 2011
6. Internal Migration and Regional Australia, By Graeme Hugo, Helen Feist and George Tan; Australian Population & Migration Research Centre Policy Brief, Vol 1, No. 6, June 2013, p1
7. Perspectives on Regional Australia: Population Growth and Turnover in Local Government Areas (LGAs), 2001-2006 (cat. no. 1380.0.55.007)
8. Regions on this tab refer to Statistical Area Level 4 (SA4)
9. Deaths Australia, 2011 (cat. no. 3302.0)
10. National Sustainability Council, *Sustainable Australia Report 2013, Conversations with the future*. Canberra: DSEWPaC, 2013, pg 65
11. Water and the Murray-Darling Basin - A Statistical Profile, 2000-01 to 2005-06 (cat. no.4610.0.55.007)
12. Environmental Issues: Waste Management and Transport and Motor Vehicle Usage, Mar 2012 (cat. no. 4602.0.55.002)
13. Environment Issues: Water Use and Conservation, Mar 2010 (cat. no. 4602.0.55.003)
14. New South Wales Electoral Commission (NSWEC) 2008, *Report on the Local Government Elections 2008*, NSWEC, Sydney
15. Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC), *Election Statistics - Voter Participation Rates*, VEC, Melbourne
16. Tasmanian Electoral Commission (TEC), *Local Government Election Report 2011*, TEC, Hobart
17. Western Australian Electoral Commission (WAEC), *Voter Participation Rates*, WAEC, Perth

[Back to top](#)

GRAPH SUMMARY

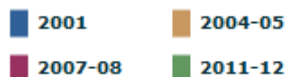
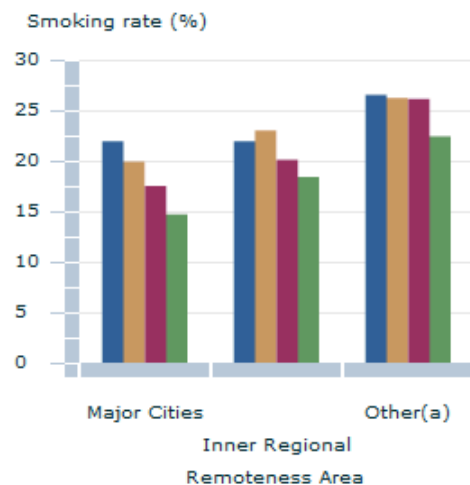
Click on the links below to be taken to a summary of the graphs from the corresponding tab within the rural and regional progress page:

[Society](#)
[Economy](#)
[Environment](#)
[Governance](#)

SOCIETY

[Current daily smokers\(b\)](#)

[People with a qualification\(a\), 2011](#)



Footnote:

(a) Includes Outer Regional and Remote areas.

(b) Persons aged 18 years and over.

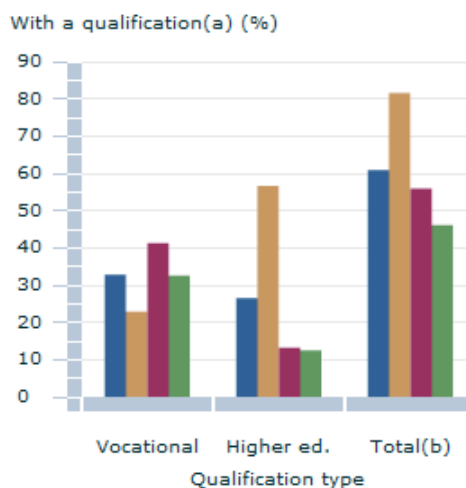
Source:

ABS National Health Survey, 2001 (cat no. 4364.0)

ABS National Health Survey, 2004-05 (cat no. 4364.0)

ABS National Health Survey, 2007-08 (cat no. 4364.0)

ABS Australian Health Survey: Updated Results, 2011-12 (cat no. 4364.0.55.003)



Footnote:

(a) Persons aged 25-64 years with a vocational or higher education qualification.

(b) Total with vocational or higher education qualification includes level of education inadequately described.

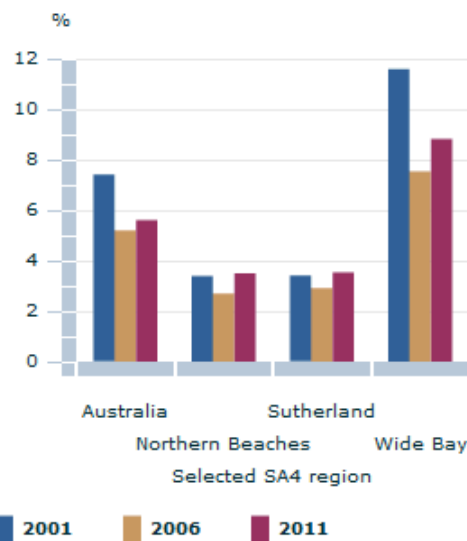
Source:

Data available on request, ABS Census of Population and Housing, 2011

[Back to top](#)

ECONOMY

Unemployment rate



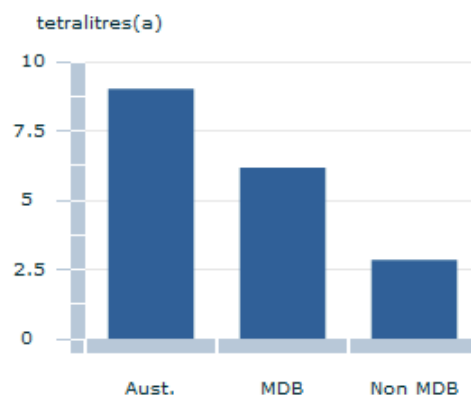
Source:

Data available on request, ABS Censuses of Population and Housing

[Back to top](#)

ENVIRONMENT

Agricultural water use - 2011-12

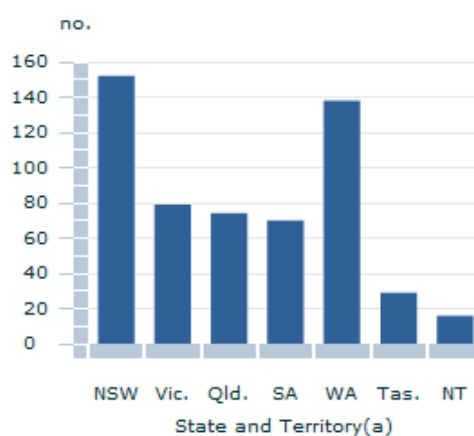


Footnote:
 Note: MDB = Murray-Darling Basin
 (a) A tetralitre is a million times a million litres (1,000,000,000,000 litres).
 Source:
 ABS Water Use on Australian Farms, 2011-12 (cat. no. 4618.0)

[Back to top](#)

GOVERNANCE

Local Government Areas - 2013



Footnote:
 (a) There are no Local Government Areas in the Australian Capital Territory.
 Source:
 ABS Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 3 - Non ABS Structures, July 2013 (cat. no. 1270.0.55.003)

[Back to top](#)



Related information

But wait, there's more...

ContentsContents

Other MAP releasesOther MAP releases

Australian initiativesAustralian initiatives

International initiativesInternational initiatives

This page contains links to other initiatives related to progress measurement:

- Other MAP releases
- Australian initiatives
- International initiatives

MAP 2013 and the recent consultation

You're currently browsing the 2013 edition of Measures of Australia's Progress (MAP). This edition contains an enhanced progress measurement framework based on a national consultation. The refreshed progress indicators have been selected to align with the aspirations and hopes Australians told us they have for Australia's future. The results of the consultation and the subsequent information paper are provided below (N.B. a full list of the final MAP 2013 indicators is available on the Data and downloads page):

Aspirations for our Nation: A Conversation with Australians about Progress, 2012 - 1370.0.00.002

Information Paper: Measures of Australia's Progress Proposed Statistical Indicators, 2013 - 1370.0.00.03

Previous editions of MAP

A full edition of MAP has been published every few years since 2002 (cat. no. 1370.0) along with supplementary editions in the years between (cat. no. 1370.0.55.001)

Measures of Australia's Progress - 1370.0
(2010, 2006, 2004, 2002)

Measures of Australia's Progress: Summary Indicators - 1370.0.55.001
(2012, 2011, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005)

Feature articles

Over the years there have been a number of features articles published in MAP that you may also find of interest:

- Future directions in measuring Australia's progress, 2010
- Relationships between domains of progress, 2008
- Life satisfaction and measures of progress, 2006
- Some international comparisons of progress, 2006
- Multiple disadvantage, 2004
- Progress indicators in other countries, 2004
- Population, participation and productivity, 2004

Australian indicator projects

There are many indicator projects underway across Australia focussed on measuring aspects of Australian life, including societal progress; wellbeing; and sustainability. The map below provides an indication of some of that activity, although it is by no means comprehensive. We've included it to show the extent of the initiatives occurring at the state and territory, local government and community level. We aim to update this list as new projects evolve and are formed.

You can find out more about some of these initiatives in the State, territory and community contributors

section of Aspirations for our Nation.

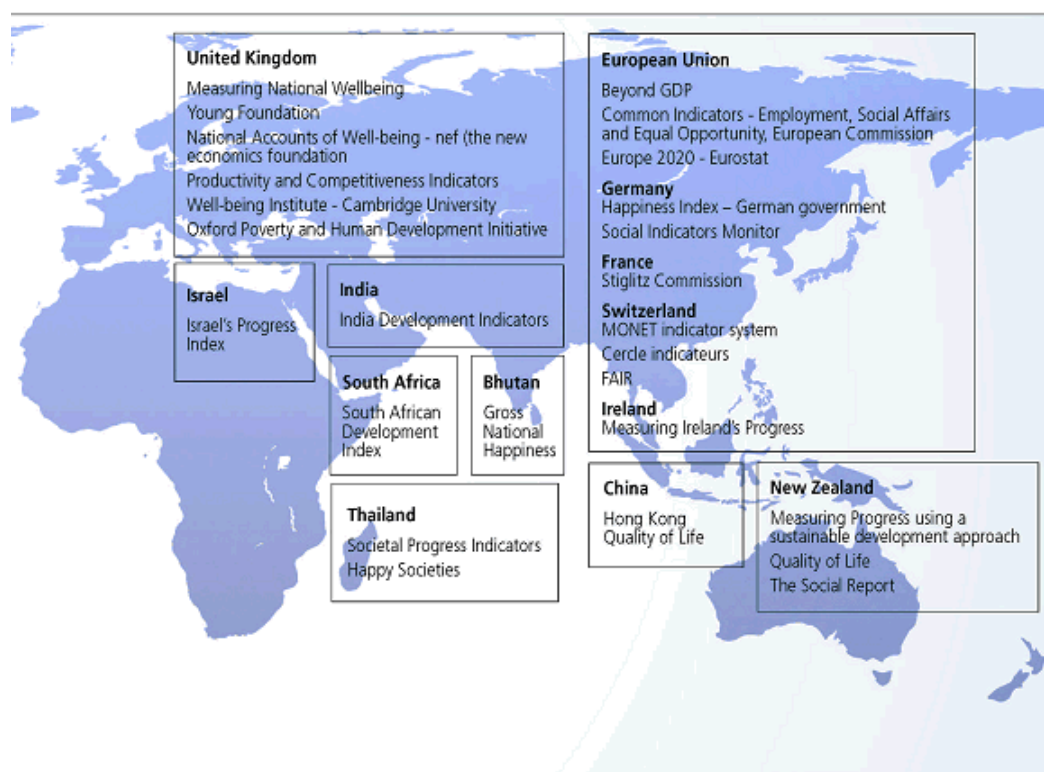
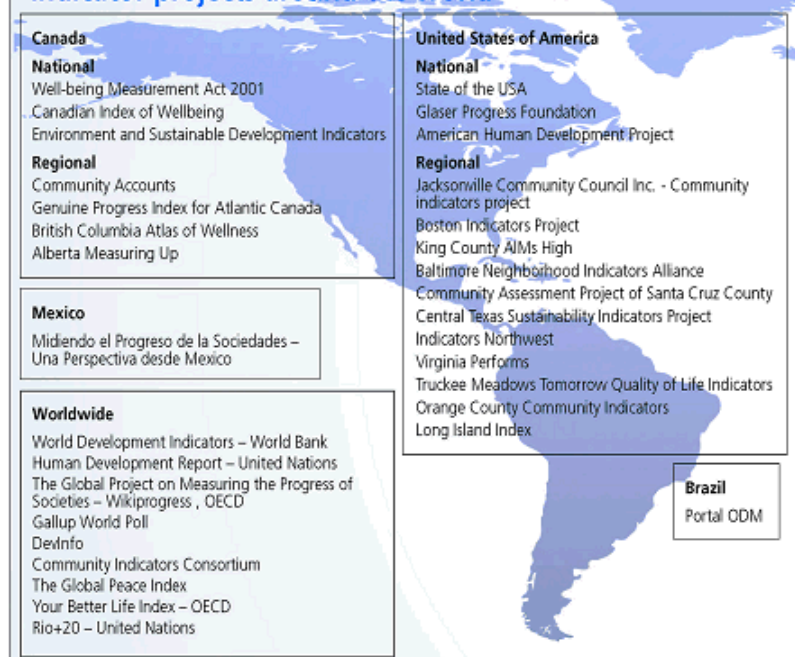


International indicator projects

There are many statistical initiatives underway globally that aim to bring together broader measures of societal well-being or progress. The map below provides an indication of some of that activity, although it is by no means comprehensive. We've included it to show the extent of the initiatives occurring internationally. We aim to update this list as new projects evolve and are formed.

You can find out more about some of these initiatives in the International perspectives section of Aspirations for our Nation.

Indicator projects around the world





Feedback

We'd love to hear your thoughts

Measures of Australia's Progress is an evolving product, we welcome comments and suggestions on the contents of this publication. Please send any comments to the Director of Social and Progress Reporting at the following address:

Director
Social and Progress Reporting Section
Australian Bureau of Statistics
Locked Bag 10
Belconnen ACT 2616
Email: measuringprogress@abs.gov.au

If you're having trouble finding certain information, our consultants at the National Information and Referral Services (NIRS) may be able to assist you. You can contact them on 1300 135 070, or email client.services@abs.gov.au. The ABS Privacy Policy outlines how the ABS will handle any personal information that you provide to us.

This page first published 9 May 2014



History of changes

09/05/2014

The MAP dashboard has been updated to reflect the change in the progress story of the safety headline which has been updated from 'not changed greatly' to 'progress'. This change has also been reflected in the '....by status' tab on the homepage.

Replacement of 'Safety' datacube, 2012-13 data added to table 1 'Victimisation rate for physical assault', table 1.1 'Victimisation rate for physical assault, by states and territories', table 2 'Victimisation rate for malicious property damage' and table 2.1 'Victimisation rate for malicious property damage, by states and territories'. The graphs and commentary relating to this data have also been updated.

Replacement of 'Health' datacube, 2012 data added to table 1 'Life expectancy at birth', table 1.1 'Life expectancy at exact age' and table 1.2 'Life expectancy at birth, by state and territory'. The graph and commentary relating to this data has also been updated.

Replacement of 'Regional availability of data' datacube, correction to table 4 'Governance indicators'.

Replacement of the 'What is MAP?' page, correction made to the commentary on the 'What is MAP?' tab.

10/02/2014

Replacement of 'Health' datacube, correction to table 1.1 'Life expectancy at exact age'.

18/11/2013

Replacement of 'Jobs' datacube, correction to table 6 'Total number of industrial disputes occurred'. The graph relating to this data has also been corrected.

08/09/2015

Replacement of 'Jobs' datacube, correction to table 2 'Proportion of non-managerial jobs that are low paid'. The graph relating to this data has also been corrected.